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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-169 *31 August 1994*

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 Aug

NC3008114094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 26 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Court Cancels Education Minister's Decree on Headscarf
2. Seminar Discusses, Rejects ICPD Document
3. Writer Praises al-Azhar Rector's Stance
4. Writer Shows ICPD Document's Violation of Islam

COURT CANCELS EDUCATION MINISTER'S DECREE ON HEADSCARF

A 300-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Khalid Yunus on page 1 says that the Administrative Court last Tuesday "settled the battle of the headscarves in schools, suspending the education minister's decree imposing a specific uniform on schoolgirls and declaring it null and void."

In an initial reaction, the report adds, Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din told AL-SHA'B that he "will respect the court's decision," which he is quoted describing as "binding." He said he "will contest the court's decision if the law gives us the right to contest."

Citing the court's decision, the report contends: "The education minister's decision is legally null and void, since it blatantly infringes the legislative authority and the public freedoms that the Constitution guarantees every individual." The court's decision, the report says, pointed out that preventing schoolgirls who wear the headscarf from entering school "violates the Constitution and a citizen's right to learn."

A 2,500-word report by the same correspondents, on page 2, cites long passages from the preamble of the Administrative Court ruling on the education minister's decree.

SEMINAR DISCUSSES, REJECTS ICPD DOCUMENT

A 1,500-word report by Subhi al-Buhayri on page 3 gives an account of a seminar organized by the Physicians Association on Tuesday 23 August to discuss the document of the International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, which will open in Cairo early in September. Taking part in the seminar were, among others: Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, and Dr. Fawzi Tayil.

Mufti Tantawi is cited pointing out in his speech: "Some texts in the ICPD document run counter to the spirit of Islamic shari'ah and Egypt has many objections to it."

Noting that his position on the ICPD agrees with the honorable al-Azhar's position, Tantawi emphasized: "We cannot accept the document's call for equality between male and female or for permitting abortion and homosexuality."

Speaking at the same seminar, Shaykh al-Ghazali is cited deeming the ICPD's paper "a new link in the chain of the onslaught against Islam" and suggesting that Egypt's agreeing to host the conference was "a mistake."

Al-Ghazali added: "Those who prepared the document and those who approved it failed to observe its religious dimensions and thus declared war against Allah." He called on all powers to "stand up to that suspicious conference, which was prepared to fight us in our creed."

He is quoted as continuing: "I call on all the sons of Egypt to stone the perverts who called the conference if they show up on the streets." He adds: "They deserve nothing but stoning. Their own colonialist governments may have permitted them to set up their own societies in their countries but they have no right to dirty the streets of Cairo with their debauchery."

'Adil Husayn questioned claims by some officials that the document is not binding for Egypt, claiming that it is only a "trap" that will be binding.

Citing examples from history, Husayn is quoted refuting claims of a shortage of economic resources against a background of population growth. He concludes that the conference organizers aim primarily to "control the birth of Muslims and subjugate them."

Dr. Fawzi Tayil pointed out that holding the conference in Cairo at this particular time seeks to serve colonialist goals. "It is part of the scheme of the new world order to serve greater Israel," Tayil suggests, contending that everything in the document runs "counter to our religion and traditions" and can never be approved. He calls for holding many seminars to "confront the fiendish scheme that depends primarily on destroying the principles of the religion that rejects their perversion and corruption."

WRITER PRAISES AL-AZHAR RECTOR'S STANCE

In an 800-word article on page 6, Dr. Hilmi Muhammad al-Qa'ud pays tribute to al-Azhar Rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, saying he strives to oblige the Almighty instead of obliging the people at a time when "Islam is being persecuted," piety is being viewed as a crime, and declaring belief in Islam is viewed as terrorism."

He praises the rector's reaction to the "vicious campaign against Muslim women" and to "the international crusade against Muslim offspring."

He says that history will record al-Azhar's stance on "the frenzied campaign in the so-called national newspapers, a campaign that seeks to get at al-Azhar, its scholars, and preachers."

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WRITER SHOWS ICPD DOCUMENT'S VIOLATION OF ISLAM

In his 5,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn argues that "all the points that relate to development and the liberation of women in the ICPD document are in violation of Islam." Referring to the seminar, he tells the mufti of the republic that understanding the fiendish objectives of the document requires more than a thorough reading of its passages. "Before we delve into details, we have to know the story from the beginning. To do this, we have to get acquainted with those who put together the document and their mentality and we have to remember the nature of the international arrangements under which this document is being presented," he says. He adds: "If we do this, we will realize that it was the West's secular experts who developed the document's concepts, guided by their arrogance and eagerness to impose their values and shameful conduct on the majority of mankind (including the Islamic nation).

"Recalling the international conditions surrounding the Cairo conference, we will realize that their talk about the catastrophe represented in the increased birth rate among the oppressed in general, and the Muslims in particular, is linked to previous documents and arrangements related to the environment, human rights, managing the economy, and international relations. They all seek to establish an international colonial authority (under the name of the United Nations) that forces continued poverty and economic underdevelopment on us."

Commenting on the "ambiguity" of the mufti's remark, Husayn explains that "this ambiguity, and the length of the document, are deliberate" and that they are meant "to confuse the unspecialized or unwary reader and make him accept things he would not have accepted if the words were clear and straightforward." He argues that it was this ambiguity that made the mufti miss the fact that the document permits abortion, a thing prohibited by Islam and Christianity. He appeals to the mufti to reconsider all his personal judgments on the ICPD and family planning.

Husayn contends that, contrary to what the document says, the world is not facing a crisis because of overpopulation, since people are the pillars of affluence and development. Citing the examples of the industrial revolution in Europe and economic progress in Japan and the Asian tigers, Husayn affirms that "every successful development experience was achieved in densely populated areas and under a high rate of population growth." He explains that economic development is brought about by the interaction of three factors: manpower, the primary and decisive factor; capital; and natural resources. He emphasizes the need for focusing on labor-intensive methods wherever capital and resources are limited. He uses the Sudanese economy to show how it managed to achieve "the highest development rates and a surplus in foodstuffs for export through the brilliant utilization of limited technological resources."

Moving on to the issue of women, he says that all the bright slogans the document uses about their freedom and equality are linked to "the final goal of annihilating mankind," and that the West is trying to implant its concepts and customs in that field in our societies. He states that Islam grants women their freedom and their right to learn and participate in social and political life and makes them equal to men. He explains, however, that this equality does not mean that men and women are identical in everything. He stresses that the biological differences between men and women necessarily reflect on the type of work each does in society.

He points out that the West does not recognize housework as a productive type of work, giving all the credit to work outside the home. He explains that: "We are not against women working outside the home, but we are against the call for generalizing this concept," because he says that work affects a woman's desire to have and raise children.

Husayn argues that the concepts and practices that have prevailed in the West in the last few decades have led to the legalization of abortion, the high rate of divorce, the increasing ratio of extramarital relations and illegitimate children, deteriorating family ties, the spread of violence and drugs among adolescents, and the increasing ratio of homosexuals. According to him, all that has resulted in a drop in birth rates. "This is the tested experience they want to transfer to our Islamic societies under the slogan of liberating women," he says.

Husayn appeals to all Muslim scholars, the church, and all nationalist intellectuals and politicians to reopen the file of family planning and to consider the population policy that agrees with our interests.

Addressing the rulers, Husayn says: "Do not tell us that you are free to determine your population policies or that you will not be bound by any result produced by the Cairo conference if you are not satisfied with it. Do not tell us that, because we know that your ability to make independent decisions is something of the past. We know that you are no longer capable of raising or lowering the price of any commodity until you get direct orders from Washington."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Qaddumi Agree To Role Division

JN3008200594

[Editorial Report] Paris al-MUHARRIR in Arabic on 29 August publishes a 1,200 word Amman-datelined report by Majid 'Abd-al-Hadi claiming to outline events at a meeting in Tunis on 21 August between Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO's Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi, following talks the latter held in Amman, Damascus, and Cairo.

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Qaddumi is quoted by an unnamed Fatah official as saying that "the aim of his tour was to foil 'Arafat's call for convening a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Gaza" to revoke a clause in the National Charter calling for the dismantlement of the State of Israel.

Qaddumi, according to the official speaking to AL-MUHARRIR, told 'Arafat "there is no common ground left between us. I will pursue a Palestinian political program to safeguard the PLO as a recognized political body and revive coordination with Syria and Jordan in the interest of a just settlement based on the land-for-peace formula." Qaddumi is further cited as saying to 'Arafat: "You have consented to a deferment of discussions over withdrawal, Jerusalem, and repatriation to the final status negotiations and needlessly triggered rows with Syria and Jordan, when we have a sore need for coordination with both."

Qaddumi, according to the Fatah official, managed to obtain 'Arafat's approval of three "important conditions" that should arrest the decay in the Palestinian situation, in addition to saving the PLO from having to face the option of revoking the charter's clause offending Israel. These are: No PNC session to consider revocation of the clause; a fair degree of coordination with Syria and Jordan; and reinstatement of salary payments to PLO functionaries in exile.

Having acceded to Qaddumi's terms, 'Arafat is said to have agreed on a division of roles between the two, with the PLO leader administering political affairs in the occupied territories and the Political Department chief running PLO affairs in exile.

Fatah Activists Accuse Security Services of 'Terror'

TA3008101194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Senior Fatah activists are coming out openly against the Palestinian Autonomy's security services and accuse it of employing terror against the civilian population in the territories. They have appealed to Yasir 'Arafat to uproot the phenomenon. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The death of Nidal al-Khuli of Tulkarm and of Salah Shayar of Rafah, who were shot by the Palestinian Shin Bet, headed by Jibril al-Rujub and Amin al-Hindi, was the last straw. Up to then, Fatah and the residents of the territories had kept silent about the activities of the various security services associated with the Palestinian Autonomy. Senior Fatah activists have now violated the secret and disclosed that these services are also operating in the West Bank, outside the autonomy area, and are using arms, kidnapping civilians, and making unauthorized detentions. The struggle against this phenomenon is led by Samih Sabiha, head of the Palestinian Students Union and a senior Fatah official in the West Bank. [passage omitted] Sabiha claims that the various security services should be put under a single command and that the Palestinian police should be permitted to deal with civilian issues. We call on the Palestinian Autonomy to stop the multiplicity of mechanisms, which harms the security of our people, Sabiha stressed.

Senior PLO sources said it is doubtful whether 'Arafat will accept the appeal. He is interested in maintaining competing mechanisms, which helps him to control the situation through the policy of divide and conquer. [end recording]

Security Leader Resigns Over Power Struggle

TA3108074194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Colonel 'Adil Salih, the head of the security system in charge of safeguarding the PLO leaders, resigned due to power struggles among the various PLO security branches. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

Col. 'Adil Salih, who is better known in the territories in his nickname Basil Abu-al-'Abd, headed one of the important PLO security systems, the presidential security apparatus which is responsible for safeguarding Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Autonomy's facilities. Col. Salih maintains close ties with Fatah's western sector's apparatus, headed by Muhammad Jihad, which is opposed to the Oslo Agreement. It is said in the territories that this is the reason why 'Arafat appointed him at the head of an important body, so that he continues to maintain ties with the Fatah opposition. In recent weeks though, a violent confrontation developed between the people of Col. Salih and Col. Jibril al-Rujub, the head of preventive security, over control of the area, especially the Tulkarm region. Col. 'Adil Salih, a resident of the Safarrin village in the Tulkarm region, saw himself as the natural candidate for the area's strong man, and began enlisting activists to his ranks. Jibril al-Rujub, considered the strong man in the West Bank, accused Salih of enlisting collaborators to his apparatus and of cooperation with the Jordanian intelligence. The conflict rapidly moved to 'Arafat's bureau who, according to senior PLO sources, supported Jibril al-Rujub, deposed Col. Salih, and summoned him for a clarifications meeting in Gaza. For his part, Col. Salih says he submitted his resignation to 'Arafat after his demand that an inquiry commission be appointed to check the circumstances involving the killing of a Fatah activist, Nidal al-Khuli, by Jibril al-Rujub's people was not met. I submitted my resignation to the Palestinian people, Col. Salih says, refusing to travel to Gaza for fear he will be detained. As said, the background to the affair is the competition among Yasir 'Arafat's security branches which has lately reached a new record of violence. The phenomenon greatly worries the inhabitants of the territories, and Fatah in particular. Samih Subayhat, a senior PLO activist, yesterday called for a stop to this dangerous deterioration. The question now is whether the dismissal of Col. Salih will calm moods. [end recording]

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Envoy to Algeria on Signed Agreement With Israel

LD3008143494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Following hectic and difficult negotiations, the Palestinians and Israeli sides have yesterday signed the agreement for an early transfer of powers in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Concerning this agreement, Abu-al-'Izz, Palestine's ambassador to Algeria, says the following:

[Begin Abu-al-'Izz recording] The operation of transferring the powers has come too late for the agreed on dates. The transferring of these civil powers in the spheres of education, health, etc. was supposed to form steps that preceded the so-called redeployment of the Israeli army in the rest of the West Bank as a prelude for the final withdrawal from the West Bank.

The acceleration in specifically surrendering the education powers was due to the advent of the coming school year, which is supposed to start in a few days time; thus, it was necessary to transfer these powers from the hands of the occupation, or those of the Israeli civil authorities, to the Palestinian National Authority. [end recording]

'Ashrawi Says Israel Attempting To Weaken PNA

NC3108055994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, chairman of the independent Palestinian committee for human rights, has affirmed that Israel is trying to weaken the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] during the transitional stage.

In statements to the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published in its issue tomorrow, Wednesday, 'Ashrawi said that transferring privileges in limited fragments under the shadow of the Israeli control, particularly the security cover, could change the activities and stances of the PNA to purely administrative work.

'Ashrawi added that the current transitional stage contains many changes because it is a stage for the return of the Palestinians to their country and the end of the occupation. She stressed that the PNA must absorb the role of the Palestinian woman and should not ignore it.

'Ashrawi denied the presence of essential differences with the PLO. She said that from the beginning she has had reservations and objections to some issues, but that she has not done anything to ruin or change the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

Officials React to Division of Hebron Shrine

Arab League Delegate Protests

NC3008184794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine permanent delegate to the Arab League and Palestine National Council secretary, today criticized Israel's recent division of al-Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron] in favor of the Jews. The move, Subayh stated, is an unmistakable provocation to all Muslims, a direct threat to the peace process, and a flagrant violation of UN resolutions, international law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israeli authorities have divided the al-Ibrahimi Mosque into two sections, allocating the larger part to Jews and the smaller part to Muslims.

Mayor Rejects Division

NC3108071594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, in Hebron, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Sources have reported that Israel divided the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in two and set up strict monitoring devices to prevent friction between Muslims and Jews. We have Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah on the line. Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Natshah] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How true are these reports?

[Al-Natshah] The Israeli authorities two days ago erected iron barricades and gates in the courtyard of the Ibrahimi holy shrine to divide it. They also set up electronic devices and cameras at the shrine. Of course this is the first time that a purely Islamic mosque has been divided so that non-Muslims might pray in it. Throughout the long history of this Islamic shrine, it has never been a Jewish synagogue. Based on this premise we reject these measures; we cannot permit people from a different religion to pray in an Islamic mosque. We can allow non-Muslims to visit the shrine and the Cave of the Patriarchs but not during prayer times for Muslims.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you give the Arab listeners some background about the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron?

[Al-Natshah] The mosque has been there for a long time. The outside wall was built during the time of Herodotus. Part of it was [word indistinct] during the time of Queen Helen. Then the Mamluks and Saladin came and turned it into a purely Islamic mosque. It has been that way ever since.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] On what basis has the division been made and what is meant by it?

[Al-Natshah] It is the logic of occupation. After 1967, they [the Jews] started to visit the prophets' mausoleums inside the mosque. Then they turned a small part of it into a synagogue. They expanded and annexed other parts, thus making it almost impossible for Muslims to pray there. These practices culminated in the massacre

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in March. What the Israelis seek from this action stems from a belief that by taking these measures they will prevent friction between Muslims and Jews at the shrine. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Will the Palestinians act to stop this partitioning?

[Al-Natshah] The Islamic authority in Jerusalem met yesterday and issued a statement denouncing partitioning. The Palestinian National Authority in Gaza has issued a statement denouncing these measures and we in Hebron have denounced it. We believe that this division will not end the problem but will lead to friction between settlers and Muslims. The shrine is not the main issue here. The presence of settlers inside the city is the source of every practice and act of aggression against Muslims. We demand the full expulsion of settlers from Hebron. [passage omitted]

Security Council Protest Planned

JN3108084794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] A Palestinian source has told Voice of Palestine that it has been decided to file a protest with the Security Council today against the Israeli occupation authorities' partitioning of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron into two parts: The large part for the Jewish settlers and the small part for the Palestinians. The mosque has been partitioned by installing electronic doors in the interior halls and yards of the mosque.

Commenting on this, Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th said: We reject this tragic division which reminds us of the ugly crime. Instead of preventing armed settlers from entering the mosque, the occupation authorities are punishing the Palestinian people with this measure.

Sha'th added: The unjust measure taken at the mosque is a violation of Security Council Resolution 904 which provides for protecting Palestinians in the areas occupied by Israel.

It is noteworthy that the Shamgar Commission, which was formed to investigate the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, recommended complete separation between Muslims and Jews at the holy mosque.

Damascus Radio Carries Broadcast on Ramla Action

JN3008095394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Israeli terrorism plants its crimes and massacres throughout the Palestinian territory. However, just retaliation is inflicted on it throughout the Palestinian territory. It even receives retaliation behind the truce line of 1949; that is, outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as happened the day before yesterday in Ramla and as had happened before that in 'Afula and Hadera. Despite this, Israeli terrorism and colonialism are still humiliating the Oslo accord group. It further humiliates them by threatening to retaliate, but in Gaza—far away from the Palestinian Arab resistance area of operations.

It is obvious that Israeli terrorism and colonialism do not want to admit the real locations of the Palestinian revolutionaries. They threaten the self-rule authority in accordance with the provisions of the Oslo accord, instead of admitting the bitter fact—namely, their huge military arsenal cannot face the resistance in the occupied territory. This arsenal cannot even prevent the resistance from embarking on its deterrence against Israeli colonialism, terrorism, and settlement activities.

Yes, Israeli colonialism does not want to admit that its huge military arsenal will have limited effectiveness in confronting the revolution and revolutionaries. This is not new because in the past huge military arsenals, as well as their terrorism and crimes, could not do much in the face of faithful revolutionaries and their simple weapons. Since the Zionist enemy does not want to admit this bitter fact, it is still humiliating the Oslo accord group in accordance with the accord itself, unless Israeli terrorism does not know yet that Ramla is not located in Gaza or in Jericho. In other words, Ramla is not under the control of the self-rule authority—the authority that does not exist in the first place.

If Israeli terrorism does not know where Ramla is located, we will now inform it that Ramla, together with its sister Lod, are located behind the truce line of 1949—that is, inside the Zionist entity. If Israeli terrorism wants to know more about Ramla, we will present more new facts that have taken place recently in Ramla. In Ramla, or in its neighborly sister Lod, the Palestinian Arab resistance men inflicted just punishment on an Israeli officer affiliated with one of the Israeli terrorist organs. Following this—and due to the failure of Israeli terrorism to arrest the resistance men—Israeli terrorism deported 420 Palestinian Arab strugglers to Tall-al-Zuhur in Lebanon. However, it could not uproot them because they returned victorious to their homeland thanks to their steadfastness, to Arab Syria's support for them, the Arab masses' rally around them, the international community's support for their struggle, and this community's differentiation between the legitimate Palestinian resistance on the one hand and criminal, banned Israeli terrorism on the other.

Let the Israeli terrorism ask itself: Has the Palestinian resistance stopped following this crime of expulsion, or has its valiant operations abated? We ask this question, taking into consideration that no one needs the answer. Everyone knows the answer that came the day before yesterday, particularly in the city of Ramla itself. However, we pose this question because some Israeli officials are talking about what they call calming the situation

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because in addition to the Jews, there are many Arabs in Ramla. Here, we go back to the story of the Judaization of Lod and Ramla in 1948 to remind these Israeli officials how the Arabs, who used to constitute the entire population of Lod and Ramla, have become some Arabs or merely many Arabs, as these Israeli officials put it. They are many Arabs, but they constitute a minority as a result of the Israeli injustice. We remind of this in order to examine this calming of the situation according to the Israeli officials' remarks. Calming the situation means securing tranquility. However, this expression now means the opposite as a result of the crimes of the colonialist repression during some of the decades of the twentieth century. It has come to mean repressing and oppressing the resistance, and thus, tranquility will be achieved as the colonialists have always imagined. Perhaps, or certainly, this is what Israel means by calming the situation, especially since Israel practiced this criminal way of calming the situation in Hebron only a few minutes after the well-known massacre on 25 February which claimed the lives of many Arab martyrs, and in which hundreds of Arabs were wounded during that terroristic Israeli way of calming the situation.

The information the Israeli officials have added to this expression of calming the situation is in harmony with their intentions, especially since they said that they will calm the situation in Ramla because there are Arabs in the city in addition to the Israelis. They mean an Arab minority which used to be the majority, or even the entire population until 1948. It has become a minority amid a Jewish majority which did not exist at all in 1948. Of course, we know, and Israel admits that the Israeli Army should not interfere if it sees Jews firing at Arabs. This was clear even in the Israeli Shamgar Commission which fabricated an investigation into the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This is how we understand this Israeli way of calming the situation. However, Israel, particularly those racists who began to once again shout death threats against the Arabs in Ramla the day before yesterday, must remember some issues which they are fully aware of: First, no Israeli crime or act of terrorism will go without appropriate Arab punishment. The Israelis must know that the two Israelis who were killed in Ramla the day before yesterday were punished in revenge for the Hebron massacre, which was perpetrated approximately six months ago, and that this punishment is part of the series of Arab deterrence of the butchers of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque. There is no need to refer here to 'Afula and Hadera, considering that what happened in these places a few months ago is also part of this series. Second, what Israel terms as an Arab minority in Ramla now, which used to constitute the entire population 46 years ago, is only a few kilometers away from the Arab majority in the rest of the Palestinian territories, let alone the entire Arab population in the region. This is extremely important to deter the Zionist fascists and prevent them from carrying out hideous acts of terrorism against the Arabs in the occupied Arab territories.

Yusuf on Difficulty in Apprehending Ramla Suspects

TA3008084094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The head of the autonomy police, General Nasr Yusuf, says he still has not received the names of the two suspects wanted by Israel in connection with the Ramla murders last week. After meeting yesterday in Jericho with the head of Central Command, Major General Ilan Biran, the general condemned the killings. Sources close to the general claim the Palestinian security officials are not passing on information to the police for fear that the men will be arrested.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 30 August, in a related report, adds that "reliable sources said there is great tension between Gen. Yusuf and Yasir 'Arafat over the fact that 'Arafat is not allowing him to use tough measures against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Gen. Yusuf no longer has anything to lose, the sources said, which is the reason for his media pronouncements."]

Hamas Figures Discuss Position on Self-Rule

Leaders Comment

NC3008134594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Musa Abu-Marzuq, Ibrahim Ghawshah, and Muhammad Nazzal, "prominent" leaders of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, by Hanadi Salman in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Salman] Does your visit to Beirut have anything to do with the current furor over the housing of displaced Palestinians?

[Abu-Marzuq] No, it does not. This issue is quite marginal for Hamas. The talk is not about resettling Palestinians in Lebanon, but about displaced people whose turn for rehousing has come. This is a domestic issue.

[Ghawshah] The visit to Lebanon is part of Hamas' Arab and Islamic moves. It is a continuation of our meetings with Syrian officials two months ago. We will meet Lebanese officials to discuss developments in both the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

[Salman] Hamas always says that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is not viable, that it will automatically collapse, and that Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will reach a dead end. Do you still believe this? How far will 'Arafat go?

[Abu-Marzuq] It is difficult to set a time frame. The launching of the intifadah, in the way it was launched, took 20 years. This does not mean 'Arafat will stay for 20 years; it means that issues involving the people and having an unprogrammed driving force take time. Our policy is to leave 'Arafat's policy to the Palestinians in

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the streets to evaluate and reject. This will not happen in months, but it will not take 20 years.

On the other hand, the media play an important role here. They portrayed the new development as a blessing for the Palestinians, one that will give them independence and their own flag, passports, currency, and so on. Now, however, ordinary people are discovering that all this is nothing but an illusion, and they wonder: We waited for them to provide us with our living bread, but they came to share our meager bread with us.

[Salman] But the Gaza-Jericho agreement is part of comprehensive regional arrangements, so it will not be easy to confront and foil it.

[Abu-Marzuq] Look what happened in Somalia. It was an international plan, but it failed in less than one year. What about the international plan for peace in Bosnia? International plans have not always been successful in world hotbeds. The Gaza-Jericho plan does not derive its force only from its being an international plan.

[Salman] Even if the Palestinian authority is extended to the entire West Bank?

[Abu-Marzuq] This is a hypothetical question. The possibility of such an expansion is largely in doubt. The West Bank is not Gaza. And even in Gaza, the Palestinians got only 60 percent of the land. The West Bank, with its strategic location, large area, and extensive settlements is certainly different. There are some 120,000 settlers in the West Bank, in addition to the 160,000 settlers in Jerusalem.

Concerning the transfer of powers they are talking about these days, the agreement speaks about 30 or 36 powers. Five powers have already been transferred, and the power of education will be transferred at the start of the new school year. This means that only one power out of 30 was transferred in a year. This power of education has never been in the hands of the Jews. The education sector in Gaza was affiliated with the Egyptian education sector, and this has not changed. Education in the West Bank was affiliated with Jordan. In other words, there was really no transfer of power. I wonder, how long will the transfer of 30 powers take?

[Salman] Does the Gaza-Jericho agreement not represent the beginning or the first step for the Palestinians? Does it have any political significance?

[Abu-Marzuq] The problem is that we have reduced the issue from one of sacred liberation to merely a dream of independence, a dream that a Palestinian policeman, for example, will organize traffic. We have diminished the Palestinian cause to a very simple thing.

Yes, some ordinary Palestinians believe this is the beginning of independence, but this is because their Fatah leadership told them so. Their political leadership told them that our dream will soon be realized. This is why some people are rushing to support the agreement.

(Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin pushed Yasir 'Arafat toward a struggle with Hamas to neutralize it, at least from the security aspect. Now Rabin is asking him to defy the people through a battle to abolish the Palestinian National Charter.

[Salman] Does this mean they want to get rid of 'Arafat?

[Ghawshah] There are signs indicating this. He himself once said that he will not be like a male bee that impregnates and then dies. He said that two years ago. 'Arafat has undoubtedly opened the road very wide to all the Arab countries, including Jordan. Even (Israeli Foreign Minister) Peres said that 'Arafat was the only Palestinian leader who has carried out what he was asked to do, the only one in the whole history of the Palestinian cause.

Moreover, we notice that Rabin and Peres started to turn their attention from 'Arafat to Jordan about a month ago. The information available to us does not lead us to say that 'Arafat's star is waning, but the signs lead us to believe this is the case. There are signs that the proposed Jordanian option is the old [Israeli] "Labor Party" one. Ties between Jordan and the Zionist entity are deep and what has been shown of them is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Was 'Arafat merely a bridge or a means for others, especially Jordan, to pass through? The accelerating developments on the ground will give the answer. The scope for disputes between Jordan and 'Arafat is getting wider. The issue that will erupt soon is that of demarcating the border between the Dead Sea and Bet She'an. Peres referred to this question last week, but nobody paid attention. He said: We cannot demarcate the borders between the Dead Sea and al-'Aqabah if Jordan does not agree to the demarcation of the borders between the Dead Sea and Bet She'an, that is, the borders between the East and West Banks.

What about the 10 km-wide border strip on the western side of the River Jordan? Rabin and Peres view it as a Zionist strip. Thus, when the borders are demarcated, it will be said that this is Zionist territory and that the Palestinians have nothing to do with it.

[Salman] Returning to Hamas' stand on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. How did Hamas receive the news of the agreement, and what changes has it brought to your political approach?

[Abu-Marzuq] We were not taken by surprise by the Gaza-Jericho agreement. We had been expecting it since the start of the Madrid conference. The difference between signing within the context of the Madrid conference and signing within the context of Oslo was the presence of the PLO. Had the issue of the PLO presence been absent, the delegation negotiating in Washington would have succeeded in getting more than what the PLO got in Oslo.

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On the other hand, our political stand has been the same since the Madrid conference. It has not changed. The means of expressing this stand might at times take different forms necessitated by events and their consequences, but the essence of this stand has not changed. This stand is based on the following principles.

The first one concerns the Palestinian right to confront Zionism and its occupation. Hamas' view here has been very clear. Military action has escalated since Madrid, the number of operations has increased, and their quality has gotten better. We have maintained this option.

The second one concerns Palestinian public opinion, which is divided between supporters and dissenters. We have found that any battle between these two camps would be a victory for Israel. Therefore, we have chosen not to push matters toward a crisis with the supporters' side so that political action will not reach the level of violence and fighting. Our stand has thus been a political one supported by the masses.

[Salman] You have changed your stand so as to get closer to them?

[Ghawshah] We have changed the tone but not the essence, which has remained the same. Our position is sensible.

[Abu-Marzuq] Even the dissenters' movement has seen several stands, but we have always worked to avoid splits. We have not changed our principles, strategy, or our concept of the ideal solution. There are changes even in the Arab arena. Israel was only recognized by 75 states and is now recognized by another 45 states. There are changes in the Arab, Islamic, and African arenas.

We have tried to keep our stand a moderate one that explains all our constants. The initiative launched by the movement could have been interpreted as a change in its political stand, but this is not true.

[Salman] The stand was not new but the proposal to negotiate was?

[Abu-Marzuq] We did not offer to negotiate.

[Salman] Hamas presented itself as a party ready to negotiate?

[Abu-Marzuq] No. We laid down conditions that could result in a truce. These conditions were meant to move the stage of political and media action from the fierce attack on the movement to talk about another policy and another situation. It was more a media tactic than a change in substance.

[Salman] But there were contradictions in the movement's statements on the PNA. It appeared that there was a contradiction in relations with the PNA, and this was manifested by the recent clash between the two sides.

[Abu-Marzuq] There was no contradiction in the dealings with the PNA. There was a conflict between two issues: Hamas' rejection of this authority and its welcoming the returning policemen.

[Salman] Does Hamas acknowledge the PNA as the authority for the Palestinian people in this liberated part?

[Abu-Marzuq] Now that it has imposed itself on the ground, the PNA constitutes the point of reference in some cases. We have dealt with it on this basis, especially as far as the direct interests of the public are concerned. But the PNA is not the point of reference when it comes to the Palestinians' rights and when it comes to concluding international and other agreements. But to lessen the burden on the public, we have accepted that this authority deal with the people in a manner that serves them.

We will not acknowledge the authority of the PNA in appointing municipal councils. This authority belongs to the people.

[Salman] But how can the people exercise this authority?

[Abu-Marzuq] Through elections.

[Salman] Hamas' position on elections has not been clear.

[Abu-Marzuq] We support the holding of municipal and trade union elections, but not political elections. Elections, in principle, are a right, but we found that dividing this process for the time being is in the political interest of the Palestinian people.

Hamas is not a political party that can distance itself from the street. It is a trend, an important trend in the street. It is there to serve the interests of the people, not only in the political field, but also in the social area.

[Salman] Is Hamas considering forming a political party?

[Ghawshah] This is still being studied. But if a party is established, I must stress two main points: First, the party will not be an alternative to the Hamas movement; second, the party will continue to reject the Oslo agreement and the recognition of the Zionist entity.

[Salman] What, then, will its function be?

[Ghawshah] Dealing with the new situation in Gaza, protecting the popularity of the movement, and engaging in daily political and popular affairs.

[Salman] And contesting elections?

[Ghawshah] All elections except those of the self-rule.

[Abu-Marzuq] What we said about the elections reflects the position of Hamas. If a party is established, it will take its own positions.

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[Nazzal] Hamas' job is to practice resistance, and this mission is not yet over. The movement will therefore not turn into a political party. We are talking about a group of Palestinian forces, including representatives of Hamas and independents, forming a political party. This idea is being discussed now, and there are contacts in this regard.

[Salman] Concerning the differences between the PLO and Jordan, does Hamas intend to remain neutral?

[Nazzal] First, we are part of the Arab nation. Any Jordanian-Palestinian differences will reflect negatively on the two peoples. We therefore are against differences in principle, but we must discuss their nature. The differences between Jordan and the PLO broke out against the backdrop of their positions on Jerusalem. We explained that we consider the battle to be not only over Jerusalem, but over Palestine. The battle is not for management of the holy places, but for sovereignty. We want Arab-Islamic sovereignty over Jerusalem. We therefore consider ourselves unconcerned in a direct way with these differences.

[Salman] Is it because you want to avoid a problem between Hamas and Jordan?

[Nazzal] No, but because we consider the battle to be one of sovereignty and because the Israelis seek to create a problem between Jordan and Palestine by excluding one side and bringing the other closer.

[Ghawshah] I would like to explain that Hamas, in its political position, does not differentiate between the Oslo agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement; we oppose and reject both.

[Salman] But you expressed your rejection of the Oslo agreement in a much stronger way than your rejection of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

[Ghawshah] This is natural. Hamas is a Palestinian movement focusing on the Palestinian arena. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement is left to the Jordanian opposition, with the Islamic movement at its forefront.

[Salman] Is it not true that your position also stems from Hamas' eagerness not to sabotage its relations with Jordan, especially since its headquarters is in Jordan?

[Ghawshah] Despite this, the movement issued clear statements concerning developments in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and the Washington Declaration. It rejected and condemned the declaration. The movement cannot give temporary interests precedence over strategic positions.

[Salman] But Jordan restricted Hamas at a certain point.

[Ghawshah] This was due to Zionist pressure after Hamas operations in 'Afula and Hadera and Rabin's threats to Hamas and its political and media activities in Jordan. Jordan was under pressure, and the movement appreciated Jordan's circumstances and reduced its media activity for a certain time. But after that, the movement returned to its activities as before.

Aide on Gaza PNA Stance

MM2908131994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih]

[Excerpts] London—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, has stressed that his movement's call for a dialogue with the Autonomy Authority is not new and that there has been no change in the policy of Hamas. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in the Strip, al-Zahhar said that "Hamas had called for dialogue before the [Palestinian] Authority reached Gaza, and the aim was to spare the Palestinian people any problems." He added that the call for dialogue with the authority did not contradict Hamas's policy of not negotiating with Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Zahhar added: "But there is a difference between a dialogue with 'Arafat on joining the autonomy and a dialogue with the authority or 'Arafat—there is no difference, because 'Arafat is the authority and the authority is 'Arafat—on day-to-day problems which should be solved through cooperation. That is what we initiated before the authority's arrival in the strip."

In a statement released yesterday in the Strip, Hamas called on the Autonomy Authority to hold a dialogue and to discontinue its policy of detaining its members. It expressed readiness for dialogue "when freedom is guaranteed and the opposite opinion is respected."

The statement said that there was no contradiction between the Palestinian Authority's respecting its agreement with Israel and Hamas's commitment "to resist occupation" because "the Palestinian negotiators cannot put any pressure on Israel in the absence of resistance." The statement added that "the heroic operations of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads are in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority, which should cooperate with them and not stand in their way."

On that and its running contrary to what the Authority officials were saying, namely that Hamas was mounting operations in the autonomy areas and not in the occupied territory, and in so doing was embarrassing the Authority, al-Zahhar said that "the claims of the Authority officials are not true at all because the recent operations were carried out in the settlement of Kasuvim in the Strip, which is a settlement under Israel authority."

He added: "The problem is not the operations but Israel's desire to cause internal infighting. That is confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements in which he said that the authority's problems are confined to two issues: The presence of fundamentalism in the Strip and the absence of an administrative system

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to absorb the financial aid for the autonomy. Rabin's words militate toward internal infighting."

Commenting on the [Hamas] statement's assertion that Hamas "has so far not reacted to the provocations and detentions," he said that "the detentions are not so much disturbing to Hamas as they are disturbing and embarrassing to the Authority. The average Palestinian does not accept detention of the mujahidin while collaborators are given important posts in the authority." Dr. al-Zahhar declined, however, to name any collaborators who have assumed posts in the Authority, as he claims. [passage omitted]

Asked if the Authority really wanted confrontation [with Hamas], al-Zahhar said: "I can provide tangible evidence and cite statements pointing in that direction."

He added: There are several pieces of evidence, namely:

1. The statement made by Nasr Yusuf (Palestinian police chief in the autonomy areas) some weeks ago in which he said "I am prepared to sacrifice 100 men to arrest the Hamas fighters who killed two collaborators."

2. Recent statements by Nasr claiming that he could capture Hamas cells but was waiting for a political decision.

3. 'Arafat's statement yesterday during his meeting with a delegation of Israeli Labor Party youth in which he said "we must cooperate to resist extremists on both sides."

4. The recent indiscrminate arrest of Hamas fighters.

5. The authority's cancellation of the national agreement on the formation of the temporary municipal council for Gaza, and 'Arafat's unilateral appointment of the council members. [passage omitted]

Al-Zahhar on Conditions for Dialogue

TA2708174794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, says the dialogue between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority can only develop on condition that Hamas does not participate in the Palestinian Authority. The dialogue should deal with running the daily life of the residents, who should be assured freedom and the right to express their views.

The Palestinian police continued to detain five Hamas activists. A Hamas source said 'Arafat last night promised the families of these men to release them, but so far they have not been freed.

Abu-'Aytah Calls For 'Real' Talks

TA2908180394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by 'Ala' Mashahrawi]

[Excerpts] Gaza—Shaykh Muhsin Abu-'Aytah called on the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] to focus the dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on reinforcing the points of convergence and agreement and on Palestinian unity. He said that the dialogue must be real, not one of formalities.

In a statement to AL-QUDS, Abu-'Aytah added: "We are not seeking a dialogue that will legitimize violations. Hamas rejects this, and instead promotes a dialogue that will serve our Palestinian people's daily life." [passage omitted]

Abu-'Aytah added: "The PNA must pay attention to the fact that Hamas has its own strategy and political principles and has the right to be respected. In particular, it insists on rejecting the peaceful approach and participation in the PNA and its agencies." [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Hits 'Arafat Spy Swap Proposal

MM3108084094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah has criticized Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for his proposal calling for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [Hamas founder] in return for pardon for Palestinian spy Adnan Yasin. Meanwhile, Israeli sources have stated that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres denied the statement attributed to him by 'Arafat to the effect that Israel was prepared to release all Palestinian detainees if the PLO granted a general amnesty for all Palestinian agents. But Ya'ir Bruj, Peres' information adviser, confirmed the Palestinian offer when he said that " 'Arafat raised the issue of the detainees (5,000 detainees) with Peres but the latter said that it would be difficult to meet that demand while the Palestinians continued to liquidate collaborators." He added: "But that does not mean that Israel was ready for an immediate exchange."

Ghawshah, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, said that 'Arafat's proposal exposed the mentality of 'Arafat who equated Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and spy Adnan Yasin.

Ghawshah added that 'Arafat and his group are now negotiating a swap of Palestinian detainees who are opposed to the negotiation process, particularly Hamas detainees, for Palestinian agents. He accused 'Arafat of seeking to conclude this deal in order to be able to tell Palestinian public opinion that the Palestinian opposition members could not be released from Israeli prisons except in exchange for a pardon for the agents. He said that 'Arafat wanted to equate the mujahidin and the opposition with the Palestinian agents in completion of his already rejected proposal equating Shaykh Ahmad Yasin with the PLO spy 'Adnan Yasin.

It is worth noting that Shaykh Yasin has been in prison since 1989 serving a life sentence.

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Al-Husayni on Egypt's Musa Visit, Jerusalem

JN3008192194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is scheduled to visit Jerusalem tomorrow and meet at Orient House with a number of Palestinian figures, including Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Nabil Qassis, and Ghassan al-Khatib, among others.

On this visit, Faysal al-Husayni spoke to 'Abd-al-Latif Sulayman:

[Begin recording] [Sulayman] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni good evening.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Sulayman] We note that there is a change in the schedule of meetings of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with the Palestinian leadership. He was due to meet with President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza tomorrow, but instead he will visit the Orient House in Jerusalem. What do you think is the reason for this change?

[Al-Husayni] In fact there has been no change and there was no plan to go to Gaza in the first place as far as I know. The visit to Gaza will come at a later stage.

[Sulayman] What are the topics that you will discuss with the Egyptian minister?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, many issues related to Jerusalem, the peace process, especially as regards the future talks, and the status of Jerusalem in these talks. In general, the question centers on the peace process with more emphasis on the Jerusalem issue.

[Sulayman] Do you expect a new political crisis with the Israeli side over this political meeting at Orient House?

[Al-Husayni] No, I do not expect that. We have always held these meetings, and we still hold them. Israel does not have the right to protest such things. Israel is not entitled to interfere in this matter.

[Sulayman] Israel earlier refused to allow the Pakistani prime minister to visit Gaza, and there is a crisis with Israel over this issue. Is the visit of the Egyptian minister to Jerusalem going to be a new crisis?

[Al-Husayni] We do not have to link the two issues except in one aspect; namely, Israel's occasional desire to complicate things and to raise certain matters that lead to postponing or delaying the implementation of agreements.

[Sulayman] Yesterday, Israel and the PLO signed an agreement on transferring civilian powers to the Palestinian National Authority. What is the status of Jerusalem in these powers?

[Al-Husayni] Regarding Jerusalem, as you know, most of the educational departments, particularly private education, is in the hands of Palestinians and not Israelis, in addition to cultural, social, and health establishments. What we are endeavoring to do is strengthen these establishments to expand and meet all the requirements of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem. According to the transitional period agreement, the Palestinian establishments must be preserved and developed, but this is not included in the question of the early empowerment issue.

[Sulayman] On Jerusalem also, Palestinian legislative elections are due to be held at the end of the year. What is the status of Jerusalem in these elections and are there special arrangements for the city?

[Al-Husayni] Regarding this issue, the agreement stipulates that the Palestinians of Jerusalem will vote and run for office. There is an initial agreement that there will be voting boxes in the al-Aqsa Mosque, in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and similar places to complete the election process.

[Sulayman] There was a decision earlier to set up a Palestinian-Israeli committee on Jerusalem and talks on certain measures to facilitate the entry into and exit from the city for Palestinians. Does the committee still exist?

[Al-Husayni] In fact this is a framework that includes me and Mr. Shahal, and within this framework issues related to Jerusalem could be discussed. One of these issues is the siege imposed on Jerusalem. Some decisions were made following our meetings. Once again it was decided that women need no permits, and men over the age 40 also need no permits, in addition to students. We are seeking to develop this agreement to lift all these barriers completely.

[Sulayman] My last question is on the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Reports say that the Israeli authorities have divided the Ibrahimi Mosque into two parts. The settlers will be allowed to enter through special passages and wide space was given to them. There has been a Palestinian reaction against these measures.

[Al-Husayni] The West Bank and Hebron are part of the occupied territories. Israel does not have the right to take such measures. Every measure it has taken is based on illegal ground and therefore is null and void. Any Israeli alterations must be removed once the occupation has ended.

[Sulayman] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni thank you very much. [end recording]

'Arafat on 'Israeli Attempts To Torpedo' Agreement

TA3008155394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 Aug 94 p 23

[Excerpt] Gaza, WAFA—Welcoming delegations from 38 towns and villages in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev yesterday, President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and head of the Palestinian National

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Authority, said that there are Israeli attempts to torpedo the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, to torpedo the peace of the brave.

He said that the Palestinian side is still brave and that the other party should have the same trait so that we can protect the peace together.

President 'Arafat said: "No day passes without the Israelis' creating a problem for us. Yesterday they stopped the Pakistani ambassador to Cairo for nine hours at the border. Then they asked him to return and did not allow him to go to Gaza."

He stressed: "This land is Palestinian and no one has the right to make such a decision independently from the Palestinians. This is a violation of the agreement and will destroy it." [passage omitted]

'Arafat, German Official Discuss Representation

JN3008165494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President 'Arafat today met with a German delegation led by the director general of German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides discussed the opening of the German representative's office in the city of Jericho tomorrow, as well as German-Palestinian ties.

'Arafat Orders Closure of Force-17 Amman Offices

TA2908182594 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 2

[Report from Jordan by Dan Avidan]

[Text] A senior Palestinian source in Jordan told DAVAR that two days ago, Yasir 'Arafat ordered the closure of the Force-17 offices under the management of Abu-al-Tayyib in Amman.

According to the source, over the past two months, 'Arafat made an attempt to improve relations with Abu-al-Tayyib after the two men had a falling out and 'Arafat removed Abu-al-Tayyib from all positions of influence in Fatah.

Abu-al-Tayyib, however, rejected all 'Arafat's advances and criticized the Jericho-Gaza First agreement. 'Arafat tried to appoint Abu-al-Tayyib one of the negotiators over the security aspects of the agreement with Israel.

Approximately one week ago, 'Arafat sent a representative on his behalf to Amman, after he learned that Abu-al-Tayyib had joined other elements within Fatah opposed to the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. In addition Abu-al-Tayyib had turned the Force-17 offices in Amman's al-Nuzha neighborhood, which is considered 'Arafat's home base in Jordan, into a front for opposition elements.

These elements include, in addition to Abu-al-Tayyib, Fatah Central Committee members 'Abbas Zaki, Brigadier General Muhammad Jihad, and Hani al-Hasan.

Abu-al-Tayyib and his associates used the offices to disseminate leaflets criticizing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and 'Arafat. This lead 'Arafat to order Abu-Samih ('Umar al-Hakim), the PLO's representative in Jordan, to close Abu-al-Tayyib's office and evict him and all the other opposition figures from the building.

Yesterday, Abu-Samih carried out 'Arafat's instructions.

'Arafat Seeks Arab Protest of Hebron Cave Steps

TA3008060394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on Arab foreign ministers and the Islamic states to protest steps taken by Israel at the Tomb of the Patriarchs. He calls on them to discuss Israel's installing of cameras and other monitoring devices when they meet shortly in Cairo. 'Arafat also argues that Muslim sensitivities have been violated by the building of partitions between the different prayer halls.

A member of the Waqf Islamic Council, Ziyad al-Ja'bari, who visited the site, charges that the partitions leave most of the space in Jewish hands. He says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently installed three steel doors, 14 cameras, and more than 16 monitoring devices.

Security Forces Commander Rejects Almog Remarks

TA2908171794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 94 pp 1, 23

[Text] Gaza, WAFA—Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, commander of the Palestinian national security forces in the Gaza Strip, has said: "We deeply regret and reject the remarks by General Doron Almog, because they aggravate the situation and ignore the facts. The Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip is fully aware of its duties and is qualified and capable of carrying them out. It does not need a certificate from anyone."

Maj. Gen. al-Majayidah stressed that such remarks do not promote the efforts aimed at helping the Palestinian National Authority to shoulder the great and difficult burdens left by the occupation over 27 years. He said: "We hope that Israeli Army commanders will not drift toward such a policy of tension and unjustified reaction."

Fatah Dissidents Reject PNC Meeting

JN3008081394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has denounced the call by

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PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his team to annul the PLO National Charter.

The Central Committee says in a statement issued yesterday: This call is in harmony with 'Arafat's pledges to the Israeli occupation authorities to continue the conspiracy to assassinate the homeland and the cause.

The Central Committee's statement also says 'Arafat's call serves Israel's objectives, which seek to create further complications and hard conditions in the face of the growing struggle of our masses in Palestine and their rejection of the administrative rule authority and the repressive conduct of the Israeli occupation authorities.

The statement also denounces threats made by the leading figures of the self-rule and their ceaseless pursuit of the Palestinian militants.

The statement says the call to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] under the spears of Israeli occupation, and with support from it, indicates the kind of results expected from such a meeting. The statement holds all Palestinian political trends responsible for participating in, or covering up this crime.

The committee also warns against the forgery which 'Arafat's team will resort to. It stresses that annulling the PLO National Charter will serve Israel and constitutes an attempt to sever links between our people and their Arab nation.

Hebron Meeting Canceled Due to Fatah 'Differences'

TA2908181294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Efforts failed to convene a popular conference in Hebron called by the Fatah popular committee to celebrate the Palestinian Authority's assumption of the sphere of education and training. Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdah adds that the meeting which was expected to be held at 1700 today was canceled because of differences among the various wings of Fatah.

Al-Hasan Trying To Form Jordanian-Palestinian Party

TA2908183294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, a senior Fatah official who opposes the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and has recently been at odds with Yasir 'Arafat, has been working to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian party in Jordan.

Palestinian sources told DAVAR that al-Hasan had coordinated his activities with Jordanian intelligence services with the aim of hindering 'Arafat's political moves.

In recent years, Hani al-Hasan has become 'Arafat's political rival. It is reasonable to assume that King Husayn has been exploiting al-Hasan's activities to undermine 'Arafat, as part of the covert and overt struggle between 'Arafat and Husayn over influence in the territories.

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Algeria

FIS Consultative Council Member Released From Jail

LD3008143094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 aug 94

[Text] It was announced in Algeria today that a leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was given a conditional release from jail yesterday. Othmane Aissani had been held in Serkhadji prison for 18 months without facing trial.

He is an important figure because he is a member of the FIS Consultative Council, and is the third leader of this movement to be released since February, the month that Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djeddi were released.

FIS Warns Morocco on 'Bad Treatment' of Citizens

LD3008174694 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Following the closing of the border between Morocco and Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has warned Morocco against, I quote, the bad treatment inflicted on Algerian nationals in this country. The decision to impose an entry visa on Algerian nationals is un-Islamic, the FIS spokesman added.

GIA Group Opposes Proclamation of Caliphate

LD3008201494 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] There is friction within the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. Today the West Algerian leadership of the GIA denounced the proclamation by the GIA of a caliphate government. It refuses to acknowledge this body and thus no longer recognizes Abou Abdallah Ahmed [Cherif Gousmi] as head of the GIA.

FIS Said 'Strengthened' by GIA Withdrawals

MM3108104694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "After Failure of the Armed Group's Government in Algeria, the Salvation Front Strengthens Its Position Before the Dialogue Issue Is Resolved"]

[Text] Paris—The position of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] in the Algerian political arena has been strengthened after the withdrawal of Said Makhloufi and his group, the Movement for an Islamic State [MEI], from the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], which he had joined along with some FIS leaders last April.

Said Makhloufi, who was appointed minister of interior in the GIA's cabinet, had pledged allegiance to Abou Abdallah Ahmed, the "amir of the group." It was a "pledge of allegiance and obedience for better or worse," but he made his allegiance conditional on "following the fundamentalist line," noting that departure from that line would "annul the pledge of allegiance."

The withdrawal of Said Makhloufi, Anouar Haddam's "declining" to accept the post of foreign minister, and Abdelrazzak Rajjam's refusal to joint the GIA's government, leaves only Mohamed El Said of the group that joined the GIA last April. He has been appointed head of that government. In other words, that only leaves the Djaz'ara [Algerianization] trend if we consider that Haddam's declining might have been due to diplomatic reasons linked to the conditions for his residence and activities in the United States, where he is regarded as FIS representative abroad, not GIA representative.

The move by Mohamed El Said and the Djaz'ara elements in joining the GIA had surprised everyone because the Djaz'ara group is a select group consisting of intellectuals who were previously seen as the more open, moderate, and politically adaptable elements of the FIS. Therefore, their joining the GIA, the more extremist group with the more simplified ideas, was seen as a coup attempt against the traditional FIS leadership, which was very cautious about that group, describe by some traditional leaders as opportunist. Most of the leaders, especially Ali Belhadj, had objected to the admission of Djaz'ara elements who were considered to be opposed to the fundamentalist trend because they were influenced by the Islamic author and philosopher Malik Bin-Nabi, and particularly because they only decided to join the FIS after it won the municipal elections.

Abbasi Madani, however, pressed for their acceptance into the FIS, first on the grounds that the door should not be closed to any Muslim so long as he joins in his personal capacity and not as a group, and, second, because he wanted them in the Shura Council because he believed that they would support him against the fundamentalist group supporting Belhadj.

Said Makhloufi's withdrawal denotes internal differences between him and the GIA and also Mohamed El Said's group. Last year Makhloufi distributed a tape in his own voice fiercely attacking Anouar Haddam and the Djaz'ara trend. But even more, the withdrawal of Makhloufi and his friends reflects the dissatisfaction of the grass roots of his movement with the move of joining the GIA, particularly after the other armed organizations refused to follow suit. In fact, his joining the GIA expedited the unification of the other organizations under the banner of loyalty to the FIS. So, the FIS emerges from the most difficult crisis since its birth in a stronger position, with the question of its participation in the dialogue expected to be resolved at any moment.

'Gunrunning Network' Leader Identified

LD3008154494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The security services on 6 August dismantled a gunrunning network and recovered a considerable quantity of weapons, ammunition, and transmission equipment. The investigations that were carried out led to the

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identification of the ringleader: Rached Adel, a terrorist who has sought refuge in Germany with Lounissi Djamel, responsible for the gun-running networks set up in Germany.

Egypt

Source Dismisses Iraq-Gulf States Mediation Role

NC3108110394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—A ranking official source has categorically dismissed a recent news agency report about Egyptian-United Arab Emirates [UAE] mediation to patch up the differences between Iraq and the Gulf states.

In a statement to Friday's edition of AL-MUSAWWAR the source said it is not true that President Husni Mubarak received a message—written or oral—from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn seeking Egypt's mediation to end the differences between Kuwait and Iraq.

The source denied that the message prompted the recent meeting between President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan in Geneva. The source pointed out that the meeting was part of the talks the two leaders held in Cairo to promote relations between Egypt and the UAE.

Musa on Arms Control Talks in Israel, Jerusalem

NC3108105094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0905 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Diana Misbah in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Misbah] Minister: Your visit to Israel is particularly important, since it is the first official visit of this kind. Could you shed some light on the visit, which has met with wide approval by Israeli official circles?

[Musa] The visit focuses on the peace process and an exploration of the future to see what people are thinking. It also provides an opportunity for them to listen to our views, especially on the issue of arms control in the region and the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. This is a very important issue and was part of my discussion. There is also the issue of the peace process on every track, which is now going through a delicate, yet advanced, stage. There is also the issue of bilateral ties.

[Misbah] Amid broad controversy, could we say that the issue of Jerusalem has turned from an Arab-Israeli issue into an inter-Arab affair following the Jordanian-Israeli declaration in Washington?

[Musa] No. This is not true. It is still an issue subject to Arab-Israeli negotiation, Palestinian-Israeli negotiation to be precise, in the final stage of negotiations. It does not matter that there are various opinions regarding this issue, even if they are inter-Arab. But there is no inter-Arab conflict over it. [passage omitted]

Court Rejects Bid To Cancel ICPD Convention

NC3008154394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—The State Council's Administrative Court ruled today that it does not have the jurisdiction to look into a case submitted to it by a lawyer demanding that the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] be stopped from being held in Cairo.

The court said that offering to hold the conference is an act of state sovereignty and is not subject to the judiciary.

It stressed that when the Egyptian Government offered to hold this conference, it did so in its capacity as a ruling authority and not as an administrative authority, and therefore the court does not have the jurisdiction to decide on the legitimacy of the conference.

It added that the offer to hold the conference was in implementation of an agreement between the United Nations and Egypt that is outside the scope of the judiciary authority.

Meanwhile, 240 members arrived in Cairo in the past two days to attend the ICPD which starts on Monday. [passage omitted]

Pre-ICPD Antiterror Training Given in U.S.

NC2908105794 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 10

[Text] Thirty Egyptian antiterrorism officers returned from Washington last month after attending an advanced training course on ways to confront terrorist operations and protect senior figures and international conferences.

The course was part of security cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the area of combating terrorism and was designed to protect participants in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which will open in Cairo on 5 September.

Contacts, Actions of Extremist Lawyer Detailed

NC3108090994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 10-11

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] Muntassir al-Zayyat's term in prison has been extended by another 45 days to investigate the case in which he is accused of contacting members of extremist organizations inside and outside Egypt, having been charged with causing trouble at the Bar Association. The legal stance of the extremists' lawyer remains vague

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while members of the Bar Association try to exploit the issue to score points for the Muslim Brotherhood.

This is not the first time the extremists' lawyer has been interrogated. He played a prominent role in promoting the extremists in the media during the past two years. He was in the limelight when his name topped the list of those charged over incidents in 1981, a charge on which he was acquitted. He was arrested later and held for some time.

Before being arrested over the recent events, Muntassir al-Zayyat was the public figure known by the Islamic Grouping for performing the role of the terrorist organization's equivalent of information and foreign affairs minister. He talks of the conditions of extremists inside and outside prison to the newspapers and news agencies. He contacts foreign embassies in a public and conspicuous manner.

Since his first trial in 1981, the story of the extremists' lawyer has been fraught with complications, drama, and political paradoxes.

Al-Zayyat, an Upper Egyptian from Asyut, joined the extremists while still a student at law school. What distinguished him was that he always supported the extremist currents at university. He attended all their meetings until his arrest in 1981. He then began approaching both sides of the conflict, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the amir of what is called the Islamic Group, and 'Abbud al-Zumur, leader of what is known as the al-Jihad Organization. His calm diplomatic style meant Muntassir convinced every party that he was on its side and every party tried to recruit him. The situation developed such that every group considered him a member. But al-Zayyat, who remained only a defender of extremist thinking, would deny that he was a member of the al-Jihad organization or the Islamic Grouping, although most tended to associate him with the latter.

During the past few years and under the guise of a law office and the immunity provided by the Bar Association's membership card, al- Zayyat was the contact between the al-Jihad Organization and the Islamic Grouping in an attempt to merge the two currents in one direction. Al-Zayyat contacted 'Abbud al-Zumur inside prison, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States, Ayman al-Zawahiri and Muhammad al-Islambuli in Afghanistan, and maintained his constant contact with Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, the official spokesman of the Islamic Grouping in Denmark, to unite their view points. But he failed.

Despite al-Zayyat himself denying that he contacted these parties to unite the efforts of the two groups, men who are close to him confirm that he made the contacts, particularly as he has a strong relationship with 'Abbud al-Zumur, who is being accused by the Islamic Grouping of looking down on its leadership. Al-Zayyat maintained his contacts with al-Zumur in prison despite the differences.

Apart from al-Zumur, al-Zayyat had very close ties with Najih Ibrahim, 'Asim 'Abd-al-Majid, Hamdi 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Isam Dirbalah, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, Mamduh 'Ali Yusuf, and other extremist leaders. This led some to believe that the cassettes that came out of the jails to promote extremist thought—such as one entitled "He Who Fails To Rule By Divine Laws" and a torture cassette—were sneaked out by a lawyer who visited the jailed leaders frequently.

Generally speaking, al-Zayyat's star began to rise following the death of Islamic Group spokesman 'Ala' Muhiy-al-Din on Tirsah Street in the Pyramids area in 1990. At the time al-Zayyat became the recognized replacement of 'Ala'. He appeared in public with a different image, as a man who has connections everywhere. In this he depended on his legal status, which allowed him, as a lawyer, to turn his office into an information and legal center where he could receive foreign correspondents and the families of extremist group members as well as messages from extremists abroad.

In that office, where, until recently, he was careful to wear his Jalabiyah [long, loose garment], Muntasir had every facility; he had good telecommunications equipment, computer sets, a facsimile, answering machine, big xerox machine, and numerous assistants. He also had an answering machine.

Surprisingly enough, the information and foreign minister fell with the fall of the military leader Tal'at Yasin Hammam. Since then not one statement has been issued by the Islamic Group, not one bulletin distributed among news agencies, and not one secret leaflet issued on any special occasion, contrary to group tradition of doing such things, especially on the prophet's birthday.

Muntasir was the first case of his kind in Egypt; he was a public spokesman for a secret organization. In that he was helped by a long record of involvement in extremist activity. The group circulated video cassettes of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and the group leaders, which were shown at their seminars. In these cassettes, al-Zayyat appeared next to the leaders. He sometimes delivered the opening or closing speeches on these cassettes. 'Ala' Muhiy-al-Din also appeared in these videos.

The story is interesting enough now but it gets more interesting when we learn that Muntasir himself acted as the public middleman between the extremist group and the Americans. He admitted that himself in a book, when he said: These contacts were made on an American request and were attended by two officials from the American embassy who mastered the Arabic language. One of them carried a file containing the questions and the other wrote everything down.

At these meetings Muntasir al-Zayyat tried to improve the image of religious extremism in the eyes of the Americans, trying to seize the opportunity presented by the channel open to him. He told the Americans: There

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is no hostility between us. We can coexist with you in one world based on equality. He added: We approve of any form of regime as long as it declares its commitment to applying shari'ah.

This happened when the sounds of terrorism could be heard on the streets. At that time al-Zayyat appeared bold and moved more freely. He tried to appear as a propaganda official who had nothing to do with terrorism. But he always tried to justify incidents. Not once did he condemn terrorists' bombs or assassination attempts.

Morocco

Captured Criminals, Weapons From Attack Shown

LD3008224194

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2030 GMT on 30 August broadcasts a 15-minute video report on the circumstances of the arrest of the four criminals, and on the weapons used by them, in the attack against the Atlas-Asni hotel in Marrakech. The report begins by noting that a TV mission has paid a visit to Fes regional police headquarters where five officers showed and explained the characteristics and use of the weapons seized.

The video shows pictures of a number of weapons, bullets, and cartridges. The first officer shows a 12.5mm rifle that was seized in Fes. He also showed another similar weapon seized in Aknoul. Two other officers show an Uzi submachine-gun and explained its characteristics and use. The officers also show an electric stun gun, a knife, a Kalashnikov assault rifle, tear gas bombs, and other weapons and explain their characteristics and use. Some of these weapons such as the Scorpion pistol were seized in Oujda.

In order to know the circumstances in which the criminals were arrested, the television team contacts the superintendent general in charge of regional security for Fes Province. He says: "At 1415 on Friday 26 August, a small taxi was attacked by a criminal gang. The manhunt and the operations to cordon off and comb the area continued from 1430 to 1730." He then recalls the arrest of the four criminals. The video shows the four criminals one after the other and gives some details about them.

Sudan

Internationalization of Southern Problem Rejected

EA3008173594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on attempts by some quarters to internationalize the southern problem. The statement said:

The Government of Sudan wishes to reiterate that all matters relating to the war in southern Sudan are exclusively internal matters, which Sudan seeks to solve by its own means and methods. It said the government's positive response to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative stemmed from its respect for good neighborliness, brotherliness, and the IGADD group's common interest in resolving the problems of national unity and thus creating a cooperating African regional group.

In the statement, the Foreign Ministry stressed the government's rejection of any attempt to internationalize the southern problem, or to bring about its inclusion by any means in the proceedings of the UN Security Council. The ministry stated that it was the Security Council's province to deal with threats to international peace, not with internal disputes. The ministry stressed that any statement supported or authorized by groups politically linked with the Security Council as an organization and aiming to bring about gradual interference in Sudan's internal affairs would be totally rejected. The Foreign Ministry confirmed the Government of Sudan's continuing desire to honor its commitments and adherence to the IGADD initiative, in order to find the best way of ending the war in southern Sudan and achieving stability for citizens affected by that war.

Spokesman Suggests New Mechanism for Negotiations

EA2608095994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the Federal Rule Office and official spokesman of the government's delegation to the peace negotiations, has called on the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states to find a new mechanism for negotiation by which the IGADD states would hold separate meetings with each of the parties concerned, followed by joint meetings to confirm and determine what was agreed. He said this new mechanism would be a form of diplomacy for the negotiation. [passage omitted]

His excellency also affirmed that the current visit of the American delegation had achieved tangible and positive results in that it had met his excellency the president of the Republic and briefed him on the results of its contacts with American officials about the accusations being raised against Sudan.

Al-Bashir Leaves for Libyan Anniversary Celebrations

EA2908180094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this morning left for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, heading a high-level delegation to participate in the fraternal Jamahiriyah's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of 1 September Revolution. It is worth noting that a people's delegation headed by Colonel Yusuf 'Abd-al-Fattah, the minister of state for social

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planning, arrived in the Jamahiriyah the day before yesterday to participate in the celebrations.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir had earlier received an invitation from his brother, the internationalist leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to attend the celebrations.

Assembly Speaker Khalifah Returns From Indonesian Visit

EA2708155294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Transitional National Assembly Speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him, returned to Khartoum this morning from Indonesia after an official visit that lasted several days.

Khalifah said that they held several meetings with Indonesian officials on increasing relations between the two countries. The delegation also met with Indonesian President Suharto. The meeting discussed relations between the two brotherly countries. During the meeting, Khalifah conveyed Lieutenant General al-Bashir's greetings to his brother, the Indonesian president. He renewed Lt. Gen. al- Bashir's invitation to President Suharto to visit Sudan. The Indonesian president lauded relations between Indonesia and Sudan and accepted the invitation to visit Sudan.

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Kuwait

'Official Source' on Jordanian Embassy Inspection

JN3008204494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 4

[By Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait]

[Text] An official source in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry yesterday described the visit that will be made by a Jordanian envoy to Kuwait to inspect the building of his country's embassy as "a routine procedure carried out by an administrative employee to check on the technical aspects of the embassy and its annexes."

The source told AL-HAYAH that "there are embassies in Kuwait that were not reopened after the liberation from the Iraqi occupation, like those of Jordan, Yemen, and Sudan." He said: "These embassies have annexes like the ambassador's residence and others buildings. There are facilities leased from Kuwaiti citizens in return for rents paid periodically. There are also some properties inside them which are guarded by hired personnel."

He added: "There are no diplomatic missions that take care of the interests of these embassies since relations between Kuwait and these countries are not severed but are frozen." He noted: "According to diplomatic agreements, an administrative employee periodically visits Kuwait to follow up on the financial matters of the embassy and extensions and check the assets."

The source stressed that "This is not the first time that representatives of these countries have come to Kuwait. We regularly receive memos from our embassies to this effect."

The source stressed that the person who will come to Kuwait to check the Jordanian embassy: "is not a diplomat and has nothing to do with the issue of Kuwait's relations with these countries. He will not visit the Foreign Ministry during his stay in Kuwait or hold a meeting with any official there." But: "the Ministry will certainly facilitate the procedures of his visit and will provide all requirements needed to discharge his mission in line with the norms followed in this regard".

RUETER earlier quoted officials and diplomats in Amman as saying that Jordan will send Counselor Mashhur Zayn to Kuwait to visit the embassy. They said that he will be the first Jordanian diplomat to visit Kuwait since the end of the Gulf War in February 1991.

Oman

Radical Group Said Seeking Power Apprehended

JN3108102994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report from Muscat by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani]

[Text] Informed sources in Muscat told AL-HAYAH that the Omani authorities last June arrested four militants who "formed a radical fundamentalist organization that employed religion as a cover for plans aimed at seizing power and undermining political stability in Oman."

The sources said that more than 200 people representing various sectors, including businessmen and civil servants in state departments, have been arrested. Investigations revealed that they are linked to a well-known fundamentalist organization in the region and that they received millions of U.S. dollars.

The sources said the presence of some of the organization's members in various ministries "proves that one of the organization's tactics is to deliberately penetrate the state departments and attempt to obtain influential posts."

Investigations conducted with utmost secrecy indicate that large sums of money amounting to several million dollars were found in the possession of the organization's members. This prompted the above-mentioned sources to say that the defendants "were the first well-organized fundamentalist group to be discovered in the Sultanate of Oman, which has been enjoying unprecedented political stability since Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id's assumed power in 1970 and suppressed a leftist rebellion in the mid-seventies. Following this, the country directed all efforts toward development and the building of a modern state, of which it was deprived for centuries."

Sources close to the investigation told AL-HAYAH that the large sums of money and other evidence "confirmed to the Omani authorities the existence of suspect relations between this organization and foreign fundamentalist movements, particularly a well-known movement in the Arab world which has a well-organized international communications network."

AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources that the investigation initiated by the competent Omani authorities immediately after the apprehension of the group "is not yet over although about half of those detained or summoned in connection with this case have been released perhaps because they were unaware of the real conspiratorial goals of the organization and the aims of the huge funds raised—goals and funds that eventually sought to destabilize the country and seize power."

In the meantime, diplomatic sources said that "the Omani authorities' success in uncovering the hardline organization and arresting its members before carrying out their plans, which seek to impose a fundamentalist regime on a country long known for its religious tolerance and openness to the world through its central geographic location and long shores, prove the efficiency of the competent authorities and of the pursued security strategy, and also prove the effectiveness of the practical and quiet policy adopted by the Omani Government over a long period of time. This policy is based on

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blocking any possibility of religious extremism in the country, based on the principle that prevention is better than cure."

The most important aspects of this policy are the following:

— Not to allow the traditional religious establishment to play any role in the political process, despite the assertion that Islam is the general term of reference for the Omani state.

— Equality among all Omani citizens in education and work regardless of their religious sect (Abadhi, Sunni, or Shiite).

— Adopting a social, political, and media approach characterized by openness and allowing women to work and even participate in the political process (membership in the Shura Council); and pursuing a civil and scientific economic policy based on meeting the requirements of the free market and the principles of equal competition.

— Conformity to the Omani people's traditional religious feelings, which are spontaneously expressed away from the phenomena of religious provocation known in other Arab and Islamic communities.

Diplomatic sources expect the Omani Government to issue a public official statement on this case in the near future following the progress of investigation by the competent authorities, which are in full control of the situation.

Yemen

Salih 'Will Not Deal' With YSP Chiefs

MM3108081694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah in London and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa: "Salih Urges Socialist Party To Support Constitutional Amendments; North Yemeni Official Escapes Assassination Attempt in Aden"]

[Excerpt] Unidentified persons yesterday opened fire on the office of Anis al-Samawi (northerner), under secretary at the construction ministry, in Aden.

Sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that al-Samawi was in his office in the Khurmaksar area when the gunmen opened fire with the aim of assassinating him.

The sources added that the gunmen, who caused some damage to the office, managed to escape without being identified.

This is the first assassination attempt on a senior northern official in Aden since the end of the civil war in July.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that the attempt was an act of vengeance by some southerners who are opposed to northerners assuming government posts in the city.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] sources in Sanaa have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih met with the YSP's parliamentary bloc members the day before yesterday and told them that the way for the return of the party officials is open, but he emphasized that none of the party leaders who are abroad will be given any responsibility in the state or the government and that anyone who returns will stay at home and just receive his salary.

The sources added that President Salih also stressed that he will not deal with or come to an understanding with the YSP unless it elects an alternative unionist leadership to replace the leadership abroad. They said that he links the solution of the YSP's internal problems, such as the confiscation of its assets, closure of its publications, and seizure of all its offices and property, to the speedy election of a new party leadership.

The sources revealed that the Yemeni president asked the YSP parliamentary bloc to vote in favor of the constitutional amendments to be discussed in a few days, and that he promised the YSP a chance of participation in the new government if the party elected a new leadership. [passage omitted]

Hundreds Return From Saudi Arabia Under Amnesty

JN3108075294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Within the framework of the general amnesty law and in response to the call made by Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, a number of deceived brother officers, NCO's, and soldiers returned to the homeland yesterday from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aboard two Saudi aircraft.

The two aircraft carried 383 people, including a number who were wounded during the sedition ignited by the rebellious secessionists.

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Turkish Businessmen Hold Further Talks, Depart

Confer With Transport Minister

JN3008114994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0637 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad stressed that his ministry's agencies and companies are ready to cooperate with Turkey in the fields of transportation and communications to serve the interests of the two neighboring peoples.

During a meeting today with Yalim Erez, head of Turkey's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and his delegation, the minister noted the eagerness to develop and expand the prospects of cooperation with Turkey, particularly in the field of truck land transport in an effort to restore commercial links between the two neighboring countries to their previous status.

He added that the Turkish companies can study and sign contracts with Iraq in the fields of land, water, and sea transportation, as well as ports, civil aviation, and railroads. They can also get facilities to obtain tangible results as quickly as possible.

Yalim Erez stressed that his country is keen to resume trade and economic links on the largest possible scale to serve the two neighboring countries and the two friendly Muslim peoples.

He said the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq has affected his country and the Turkish people who sustained a heavy loss as a result of this blockade, which he said, was inhuman and unfair.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed Iraq-Turkey ties in the field of transportation and communications and the possibility of setting up joint Iraqi-Turkish transportation companies.

Laud 'Creativity' in Facing Embargo

JN3008164094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Aug 94

[All Turkish names as transliterated]

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—A number of Turkish businessmen have lauded the creativity of Iraqis in confronting the unfair blockade and in achieving the campaigns to reconstruct the economic and cultural installations that were exposed to the aggression.

In statements to an Iraqi News Agency correspondent, they asserted that the Iraqis have given to the world the most splendid examples of steadfastness, defiance, and confrontation of difficulties. Thus, the Iraqis are actually a model in self- reliance at a time when their enemies are employing all lowly methods and using food and medicine to fight the Iraqis, they added.

Ahmed Fidaioglu, deputy head of Turkish trade relations and head of the Turkish-Iraqi Friendship Society [title as received], said the blockade imposed on Iraq inflicted a great deal of harm on the Turks' interests by adversely affecting the trade exchanges and halting both exportation and importation via the land transport routes.

He expressed hope that the Turkish Government will work for promoting its relations with Iraq by expanding and utilizing the joint cooperation opportunities in a way that will serve both peoples' interests and contribute to lifting the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Dhulfiqar Dulkin, an editor in the Turkish newspaper MILLIET, says that the economic embargo on Iraq has negatively reflected on Turkey also, inflicting losses estimated at some $20 billion in addition to invisible losses. The suspension of transactions between Iraq and Turkey has had negative effects on the Turkish economy, especially the Turkish cities through which commercial trucks pass.

He said that the aim of their visit to Baghdad is to seek ways of strengthening bilateral ties and to learn about the real conditions of the Iraqi people under the unjust aggression.

The Turkish editor said that the unjust blockade has reached intolerable proportions, noting that denying the Iraqis a means of study and education is a war against thought and culture. He said the Turkish people are viewing with admiration the Iraqi people's stand and steadfastness in the face of the unjust blockade, which is imposed on them without any legal justification.

Muhammad Amin, a proprietor of a Turkish industrial company, said that the control centers [marakiz al-saytarah] at the United Nations are also contributing to tightening the food embargo against Iraq by imposing a new system of piracy on trucks carrying food and medicine.

He praised the Iraqi Trade Ministry's organization and measures to provide food and basic commodities to citizens to face the circumstances of the unjust blockade and break it.

Meet With Health Minister

JN3008171794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak today met with a delegation from Turkish industrial and trade firms and enterprises led by Yalim Erez.

During the meeting, they discussed the scope of cooperation in the health and medicinal fields as well as the exchange of medical experience and consultations between the two neighboring countries.

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The minister reviewed the health situation in Iraq and the lack of food, medicine, and children's milk as a result of the economic blockade. This has killed thousands of children, women, and old people. He explained that the Iraqi medical cadres relied on the national capabilities and experience in order to provide medical supplies and medicines.

For his part, the head of the Turkish delegation voiced the Turkish businessmen's readiness to cooperate with Iraq in the medical field.

The guest delegation visited the al-Mansur Children's Hospital and acquainted itself with the lack of medical materials and health supplies as a result of the economic blockade.

Sign Cooperation Protocol

JN3008194894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—A delegation of Turkish businessmen has concluded a four-day visit to Iraq during which several meetings were held with Iraqi officials.

Before concluding its visit, the delegation signed a joint cooperation protocol on the fields of trade, industry, economics, transportation, and communications. The protocol was signed for the Iraqi side by 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, Industry and Minerals Ministry's under secretary, and for the Turkish side by Yalim Erez, head of Turkey's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It provides for setting up a joint Iraqi-Turkish chamber of commerce and organizing visits between representatives of the public and private sectors in the two friendly countries.

During the protocol signing ceremony, the heads of both sides voiced satisfaction with the talks. These talks yielded positive results in the various fields discussed in order to enhance bilateral economic relations, promote trade exchanges, and set up various joint ventures and firms in the transportation and communications fields in a way that will serve the interest of both neighboring peoples.

In a predeparture statement, the head of the Turkish delegation voiced satisfaction with the positive results achieved during the visit. He pointed to the strong historic relations between the two friendly and neighboring peoples.

Erez stressed the need to bring the fraternal Iraqi-Turkish relations back to normal. He explained that the continued unfair blockade imposed on Iraq has adversely affected Turkey and inflicted a great deal of damage on its economy.

He also asserted that Turkish businessmen will do their best to lift the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq. This blockade cannot last indefinitely, he said.

Erez indicated that Iraqi-Turkish relations will take a new track and open new horizons for joint cooperation so that Iraq will become Turkey's window to the Middle East and Turkey will be Iraq's window to the European and East Asian states.

Turkey To Back 'Legitimate' Authorities in North

JN3008141094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The newspaper TURKISH DAILY NEWS has said the Turkish Government has decided to support the Iraqi Government's authority in northern Iraq and not to join any move harming Iraq's sovereignty in the Autonomous Region.

In an article by the chief editor, the paper adds that the Turkish Government made this decision after a series of meetings attended by senior Turkish political and military officials. These meetings began when Hikmet Cetin was foreign minister, and were finalized after Mumtaz Soysal became the Turkish foreign minister.

The paper says that during these meetings the situation in northern Iraq was discussed and thoroughly analyzed. The Turkish Government came to the conclusion that Turkey stood with the West more than necessary during and after the aggression on Iraq, obtaining little and losing much as a result of this position.

The paper cites senior Turkish officials as saying that the Turkish Government has also come to the conclusion that the vacuum in northern Iraq resulting from the absence of the legitimate Iraqi authority created a serious security situation that has extended to southeastern Turkey. The Turkish Government has begun to clearly sense that the West is exploiting Turkey to achieve its own objectives without paying attention to the interests of Turkey, which was the biggest loser in the war launched against Iraq.

The paper indicates that this major turning point in Turkish policy resulted from the futile meeting between Turkish Prime Minister Ciller and Clinton. It became clear to Ciller that the United States would not compensate Turkey for its losses as a result of the blockade on Iraq, which total $17 billion.

'Secret' Iraqi-Israeli Contacts Revealed

NC3108070794 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 26, 27

[Text] Iraq will walk back onto the international stage through an Israeli door. Although the upcoming UN Security Council meeting, scheduled for mid-September, will not result in the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq, current developments in several world capitals signal a major shift.

One particular signal came when Israeli television—in its last newscast on the day King Husayn met Yitzhaq Rabin in Wadi al-'Arabah—cited 'Ezer Weizman as

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saying that Israel will soon see relations established with some Arab countries that are not on the front line with Israel. Weizman then named Iraq as a possible candidate.

Iraqi newspapers and an Israeli paper then ruled out the possibility of Iraq and Israel exchanging relations in the near future.

King Husayn, however, gave a contradictory signal at a news conference held after a luncheon with Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah. "Has Your Majesty been asked to arrange a meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Saddam Husayn?" King Husayn was asked. His oblique answer was: "I am not aware of this." When Rabin's turn came to answer the same question, he said: I have not asked any such thing from King Husayn.

Rabin's answer was honest. Iraq is trying to improve its ties with Israel in a bid to improve its international image and hopefully achieve the lifting of sanctions imposed against it since the Gulf war.

According to ROSE AL-YUSUF's information, Israel began receiving messages from Baghdad six months ago. Several meetings were held between Iraqi and Israeli officials in several capitals, including Paris, which is playing a leading role in this effort, and Rabat, which Tariq 'Aziz visited on Sunday [21 August] and Wednesday of last week and in which he met King Hassan II and some Jewish figures.

These meetings focused on the possibility of Iraq absorbing large numbers of the Palestinians living in Jordan and south Lebanon. Such measures would reduce the pressure that will be on King Husayn once Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese peace agreements are signed to absorb the Palestinians living in the camps. These Palestinians present a constant threat to Israel.

Sources say that Iraq would be expected to absorb between 20 and 30 percent of these Palestinians within eight years following the lifting of international sanctions against Iraq and the resumption of its oil trade.

The United States and some Arab capitals have taken an interest in these exchanges, which took place in complete secrecy. Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal attended one of these meetings. The U.S. Administration discussed these contacts with Israel. During the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel last month, Rabin took up the issue of Iraq with the U.S. Administration. However, Bill Clinton objected to lifting the sanctions on Iraq for the time being. He said that this will involve a threat to U.S. strategic interests in the region, particularly the interests of the United States in the Gulf region, unless Iraq implements all UN resolutions, recognizes the international borders with Kuwait, and returns the missing Kuwaiti citizens.

Several meetings were held between Iraqi and Israeli military officials in Oslo last July, despite U.S. objections.

While Jordan offered to play the mediator's role, France, Turkey, Brazil, and Pakistan sought to exert pressures to lift the sanctions off Iraq so that Baghdad could repay these countries' debts. At the same time, both France and Turkey tried to convince the Kurds to negotiate with Iraq on the basis of Security Council Resolution 688 on human rights.

Iraq presented a number of proposals to Israel during these meetings:

Iraq is willing to join the Middle East peace efforts.

Iraq will declare its approval of the peace agreements concluded between Jordan and Israel and between Israel and the Palestinians.

Iraq will open liaison offices between Tel Aviv and Baghdad.

On his part, Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to the Iraqi steps, subject to Washington's approval. But U.S. President Bill Clinton reiterated his objections in a message he sent to Rabin.

Despite the inflexibility shown by the U.S. President, a number of Iraqi officials—led by Vice Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, UN envoy Sa'dun Hammadi, and Military Industries Minister Hasan Kamil al-Majid—held several contacts with members of the U.S. Congress. Through these contacts, Iraq expressed its willingness to conclude trade and economic deals with the United States that will give the latter the lion's share when Iraq is returned to the international fold. Baghdad said through Paris that Iraq will not put obstacles before the peace process and that Baghdad is prepared to recognize Israel later.

The secret meeting held in New York several months ago, which included Iraqi representatives and some of President Clinton's advisers, witnessed a demand from Washington that Iraq join the Arab peace process by openly recognizing Israel. This was described as a basic condition for lifting the sanctions and the embargo on the pumping of Iraqi oil.

Iraq was at the same time seeking to find a compromise solution, which it presented to Moroccan King Hassan II. The compromise said that Iraq declares its desire to participate in the peace process but without being asked to recognize Israel openly. Tariq 'Aziz propounded this proposal during his tour of a number of European countries, specifically Paris and Moscow, which ended in Rabat. It confirmed that Iraq has no desire to impede the peace process and emphasized the Iraqi regime's agreement for a rapprochement toward Israel. It also spoke about the possible revival of the oil pipeline project between Karkuk and Haifa.

This coincided with Saddam Husayn's takeover of the premiership of the Iraqi Government last month. Observers said then that this meant that Iraq was on the point of making a number of important decisions in response to the Security Council.

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Apart from this, Saddam Husayn has made numerous changes among his officials. He arrested a number of hardliners in the army and intelligence, including those known as the al-Dawri clan: Tali' al-Dawri, the Babil governor; Major General 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Dawri; Maj. Gen. Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dawri, chief of intelligence; and Khadir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dawri.

Some circles in the French Foreign Ministry, which is playing the role of mediator between Iraq and the United States, also believe that Washington does not want to lift the boycott this year. It wants to leave this issue pending until after the first half of next year so that it has time to organize the political situation in the Middle East, particularly since Washington expressed to the French Government its fears about Iraq's speedy return to the Arab arena while the Syrian-Israeli negotiations have not yet started.

As for Baghdad, it believes that the United States will change its policy toward Iraq as a result of its economic interests since the U.S. economic lobby, for political reasons, will not accept keeping the boycott on Iraq without highlighting that its financial interests have become threatened. At the same time, the European-Iraqi negotiations, particularly with the French, have come a long way in the talks among the numerous companies in this field. Many agreements with petroleum companies have been signed waiting for the boycott on Iraq to be lifted. This has also been done by some American companies like General Motors, which will start executing a contract signed around a year and half ago in Amman, in addition to two new contracts with two big American oil companies, Chevron and Occidental Petroleum. These two contracts stipulate the exploitation of the greater part of the oil-rich Majnun Island. In these two contracts, Iraq has also bought an iron factory owned by an American company in Brazil.

There is also another agreement over oil projects in Karkuk and al-Basrah with Bectel, a project with Westinghouse Company to build electricity generating plants, and a project for building telephone exchanges with International Telephone and Telecommunications company. The value of these contracts amounts to $40 billion, excluding the deal in which the Iraqi Airlines company bought 15 Boeing planes.

On another level, while France made sure that its return to the region will be done through Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz proposed many points to Paris:

- Holding high-level meetings between Iraq and Paris before restoring diplomatic ties because such meetings give Paris the chance to understand what Iraq wants.
- Opening an office that looks after French interests in Baghdad because Washington has many trade offices in the Iraqi capital. Some other countries have active embassies, like Russia.
- Canceling the freeze on Iraqi deposits and allowing them to be used in buying medication and basic products, which are allowed by the United Nations to be imported, along the lines of what happened between Baghdad and Switzerland, Britain, Spain, Italy, Canada, and the Scandinavian countries.

It is expected that during the upcoming Security Council meeting the United States will make one concession: To empty the oil pipeline so that it does not bother Turkey any further. It will also probably decide to postpone lifting the total siege on Iraq until a later date.

Kurdish Leaders Decide on Normalization Moves

NC3008181394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Committee on Normalizing the Situation in Kurdistan met yesterday under the sponsorship and supervision of Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP].

The meeting was held at brother Jalal Talabani's headquarters in Irbil and was attended by Jawhar Namiq Salim, speaker of the Kurdistan National Council; Kurdistan Prime Minister Kawthar Rasul 'Ali; PUK representative 'Umar Fattah; KDP representative Fadil Miran; Kurdistan Front representative Ha[illegible]r (Dayli); Ghanim Jawad, representative of the Unified Iraqi National Council; and Kamil al-Haj 'Ali, representative of the Islamic Movement.

The conferees reviewed the current situation in the region of Kurdistan and assessed the efforts made by the three parliamentary committees to calm and normalize the situations in all the areas of Kurdistan and on all the fronts. They also praised the relative calm achieved as a result of these parliamentary committees' efforts. They also praised the role of the field commanders from all the parties in normalizing the situation.

The conferees adopted a number of decisions aimed at consolidating peace and stability and implementing the parliament's decisions and the clauses in the cabinet's memorandum.

These decisions were as follows.

1. To establish a number of military committees to decide on the sites for assembling all the parties' Peshmerga forces and to redeploy all the parties' armed forces from all the cities and towns. The committees formed for this purpose are as follows:

a. The committee for the city of Irbil.

b. The committee for the areas of Rawandoz and Hajj 'Umran.

c. The committee for the areas of Raniyah and Qal'at Dizah.

d. The committee for the city of al-Sulaymaniyah.

e. The committee for the areas of the Karkuk Governorate.

f. The committee for the city of Dahuk.

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2. To open all the roads and crossing points in all parts of the region and to end the searches and military roadblocks on these roads and crossing points, except the official ones.

3. To [words indistinct] the Kurdish parties and organizations in all cities and towns in accordance with a special program prepared by the Committee on Normalizing the Situation in Kurdistan, which will be approved by the local committees of the cities and towns.

4. To reopen all the government offices and to let all the employees return to their jobs in the region's cities.

5. To return the displaced persons to their former houses and places.

6. These decisions shall be implemented within one week from today.

U.S. Seen Implementing 'Dangerous Plot'

JN3108111494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0726 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has said that the United States, Zionism, and the cliques of sabotage are implementing a dangerous plot in the Autonomous Region aimed to turn the region into a center for the gangs of smugglers, Mafia, and drug traffickers.

In an editorial today, the newspaper questions the objectives of this dangerous escalation in the confrontation between the agents, and asks about the side that is fuelling this confrontation, and the tragic situation the people in the Autonomous Region are experiencing and the abyss into which the region is heading amid unprecedented confusion and security absence. The paper says that in such a situation the primary victim is the simple citizen who adheres to the integrity of his land and people within the framework of great Iraq, which is the target of this conspiracy.

The newspaper says that all the organized and deliberate sabotage and destruction in Kurdistan is taking place in the so-called safe haven set up by the United States and its allies, and that human-rights violations are committed daily and around the clock under the gaze of those who came to the area on the pretext of defending it. So, the paper asks, what is this security and what are these rights that they came to protect?

The newspaper emphasizes that the latitude drawn by the United States in the north of the homeland was only the beginning of the conspiracy's scenario, and the big players such as Jalal [Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan,] and Mas'ud [Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party] are no more than dwarfs who are instructed by the United States and Zionism within the framework of the roles drawn for them, to go ahead with the blatant treacherous line, or to fight each other.

The newspaper says that a mere reading of the U.S. President's aggressive statements and his reports to the Congress, which are full of blatant lies, show how miserable and naive is the U.S. Administration's assessment of the situation in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, especially its failed attempt to circumvent the undisputed facts that condemn it and its agents because of the sabotage and terrorism to which they led the region.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says that the foreign press description of the situation in that area as a sea of quicksand that can swallow the Americans, their allies, and their hired agents is correct. This quicksand has already started to swallow the hired agents, and a glance at Iraq's Kurdistan is enough to be aware of the miserable conditions there.

French Said Training Talabani's Forces

NC3008163994 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish 26 Aug 94 p 15

[Report by Talat Polat]

[Text] We have brought to light PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] leader Jalal Talabani's secret army, which is reportedly being trained by French officers near al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq. Against whom and for what purpose this army—which has been equipped with the most modern heavy weapons and is undergoing intensive military training at Kole-Kale camp 25 km from al- Sulaymaniyah—of PUK leader Talabani, who is known for his close ties to PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] leader Apo [alias for Abdullah Ocalan] and the latter's benefactor Syria, will be used is a matter of curiosity.

Certain officials note that "Talabani will surely not use this regular army, formed from peshmergas trained as modern soldiers, against his close friend Apo, the leader of the PKK," and in saying this they are stressing that Talabani is shrewdly getting ready for something.

Heavy Weapons and Extraordinary Measures

Talabani, who gained strength and obtained a diplomatic passport by taking advantage of the foibles of the late [President Turgut] Ozal after the deployment of Poised Hammer in northern Iraq, entered into a major clash with his rival Mas'ud Barzani last month. Some 2,000 died in clashes between Talabani's PUK and Barzani's forces. However, it was ascertained that after these clashes the PUK leader changed his strategy and opted to pit Mas'ud Barzani and the PKK against each other. In the meantime, Talabani expanded Kole-Kale camp with peshmergas loyal to him and started to set up a large regular army some three months ago.

French Officers

The peshmergas of Jalal Talabani's PUK, who waged a guerrilla-style struggle against the Iraqi Government until the Gulf crisis, are now undergoing intensive

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training to make the transition to a regular army. Kole-Kale camp, which lies 25 km north of al-Sulaymaniyah and where the peshmergas undergo "regular army" training, is being defended by anti-aircraft guns against a possible air raid.

The peshmergas in the camps—where training is being held on every sort of arms, from commando-style sporting activities to training on medium- and long-range cannons—are being trained by being divided into squads and detachments.

The PUK officials, who indicate that after eight months of training the peshmergas are outfitted in beige uniforms and transformed into military units, said that their aim is to discipline and modernize their forces.

It is being claimed at the same time that officers from France are training thousands of peshmergas in order to transform them into a regular army. However, Talabani supporters are exerting considerable effort to deny this by merely saying: "It is natural to send some of our high-ranking colleagues abroad to enhance their knowledge and experience."

Plan for a United Kurdish Army

The meeting held in Paris by Talabani and KDP [Democratic Party of Kurdistan] leader Barzani with the French president's wife, Mrs. Mitterrand—who is known for her enmity for Turkey—is noteworthy in view of these developments in northern Iraq. It is known that at this meeting Mrs. Mitterrand proposed that the two leaders set up a joint Kurdish army. In asking for the merger of the forces of two rivals, Mrs. Mitterrand stressed that she will offer help to achieve this. Intelligence to the effect that an undisclosed article of the agreement signed by Talabani after the secret Paris meeting, in which no Turkish or Iranian official was present, deals with "the formation of a joint Kurdish Army" is now being confirmed.

After a parliament, elections, and a government in northern Iraq, we will now have a regular army headed by Talabani... [ellipses as published]

It appears that the next thing to come will be a formal declaration of independence.

Ministry Reports on Embargo-Related Deaths

JN3008133594 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Some 12,299 Iraq people have been reported dead over the past two months of June and July as a result of medicine and food shortages caused by the embargo imposed on the country.

A Ministry of Health report issued recently showed an alarming rise in mortality rate among Iraqi people, and in particular among children of the months of June and July (nearly four years after the imposition of the embargo) in comparison with mortality rate recorded during the same period in 1989 (a year before the imposition of the embargo).

The report blamed the rise in mortality rate on the dearth of food and medicine because of the UN-imposed trade sanctions on Iraq.

As usual children are hit hardest by the sanctions. The report said that 8,434 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition related diseases in comparison with some 765 children died over the same period in 1989.

The Ministry's report attributed the rise in fatalities among children to acute shortages of food and medicine because of the embargo and shortages of clean potable water and breakdown of a number of water treatment plants in some parts of the country due to the bombing by U.S.-allied aircraft during the war and lack of spare for maintenance and repair work. [sentence as received]

The Ministry's report noted that during June 1989, the number of children struck by malnutrition related diseases was 123, whereas the number of children fatalities over the same period 1994 reached some 1,852. Likewise, some 2,489 children reported during July 1994 because of acute malnutrition compared with some 138 children died over the same period in 1989.

Moreover, the report showed that diarrhea has claimed the lives of 156 children under the age of five over the month of June, 1989 in comparison with some 1,540 deaths recorded during the same period in 1994. Similarly, the number of children who died because of diarrhea has jumped from 142 in July, 1989 to reach some 1,904 in July 1994 recording an increase of 1240.8 per cent.

The report added that the number of children fatalities because of pneumonia during June 1994 recorded a sharp increase of 569.4 per cent, noting that the number of deaths registered during June 1989 was 108 in comparison with some 723 deaths registered during July 1994, scoring an increase of 844.89 per cent over 1989's figure.

As for patients who suffer from chronic diseases, the report noted that hypertension, diabetes and malignant neoplasms were the main causes of the deaths of 3,065 recorded over the months of June and July in 1994 compared with some deaths registered over the same period in 1989.

According to the Ministry's report some 128 people died because of hypertension over the month of June 1989 in comparison with 328 who died over the same period in 1994, recording an increase of 156.25 per cent over 1989's figure. Likewise, the number of deaths cause by hypertension has jumped from 122 in July 1989 to 302 deaths registered over the same period in 1994.

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In the meantime, fatalities caused by diabetes have registered a sharp rise in June and July 1994, said the report, noting that some 182 people have died over the month of June 1984 compared with some 70 ones for the same in 1989, scoring and increase of 174,28 per cent. Similarly, the number of deaths caused by diabetes has jumped from 62 registered in July 1989 to reach some 161 deaths for the same period in 1994.

According to the report, some 893 people who suffer from malignant neoplasms have died during June 1994 compared with some 136 ones died over the same period in 1989, whereas some 989 people have reported dead in July 1994 in comparison with some 246 ones registered over the same period in 1989.

The causes of the sharp rise in mortality rate among people who suffer from malignant neoplasms were attributed to the shortages of chemical and hormone medicines. The essence of cobalt radioactive element needed for the treatment of malignant tumors has hit plans to care for people in bad need for radio therapy.

Committee Unfreezes Produce Prices

JN3008151794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] The cabinet's Ministerial Committee has discussed the current scarcity of certain agricultural products. After the various aspects of this issue were discussed with those concerned in the agricultural sector, the Ministerial Committee decided to suspend the price list on tomatoes, onions, and potatoes until further notice for the following reasons:

1. A temporary scarcity in the production of some agricultural crops, including these products, occurs at this time every year in the governorates that produce such crops.

2. In order for the peasants to continue production and also to encourage them to grow these crops in the future, the restrictions resulting from the prices on these products should be lifted in a way that will increase production and maintain it in the future.

Based on the above, the Ministerial Committee will reconsider this issue after production improves and becomes stable.

BABIL: Self-Rule 'Still' Under 'Occupation'

JN3108112394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—BABIL newspaper says that Tel Aviv's refusal to allow Benazir Bhutto to visit Gaza without its approval reiterates that the Palestinian self-rule area is still, and perhaps will remain, under Zionist occupation.

Yitzhaq Rabin has insisted that the Pakistani prime minister submit a request to the Zionist authorities to allow her to enter the Gaza Strip. Rabin added: Otherwise, Bhutto cannot visit the area as long as she refuses to contact Israel.

The newspaper expresses astonishment over the situation and crisis sparked by Mrs. Bhutto's desire to visit the liberated Palestinian territory. In today's editorial, BABIL asks about the gains achieved by the self-rule agreement if the officials in the administration of this area cannot receive their guests, particularly if the guest is a head of state or a ranking official like Mrs. Bhutto.

BABIL expresses doubt about the ability of the Palestinian ministers in Gaza and Jericho to exercise their powers and discuss or decide the relations and interests of the self-rule area with world countries as long as the Zionist ruler is the one who makes decisions and issues instructions.

The newspaper stresses that the real picture and situation of the self-rule affirm that there is no difference at all between liberated Gaza and occupied Yafo in light of the diplomatic crisis sparked by the crisis of the Bhutto visit and the Zionist ruler's insistence on playing the role of decisionmaker in the Palestinian self-rule area.

MENA Cites Deteriorating Conditions in South

NC2808083594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (MENA)—The regions of southern Iraq are experiencing difficult conditions, with water shortages and the spread of corruption, bribery, theft, looting, and the desecration of honor.

According to reports from the area, theft and looting are being carried out by security personnel, who have turned into tools to intimidate the people, not protect them.

The reports indicate that the phenomenon of soldiers deserting their military units in the south is spreading. Highway robbery, car thefts, and tampering with the distribution of food rations are also on the increase.

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Further on Visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa

Peres Seeks Yad Vashem Visit

TA3008064394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrives in Israel today amid criticism of his refusal to visit the Yad Vashem Memorial for the 6 million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. Last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres telephoned 'Amr Musa and asked him to reconsider. Peres pointed out the importance and sensitivity that Israelis attach to the issue. The Egyptian official is making an official trip this time. All his previous stays were described as working visits.

The assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yo'av Biran, says the fact that Egypt agreed to an official visit marks an improvement in bilateral relations. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Biran said it was another sign the so-called cold peace between Israel and Egypt is coming to an end.

[Begin recording] [Biran] For a long period, we have had very close and frequent political dialogue with regard to the political process and the peace process, but bilateral relations were somewhat lagging behind. I think this shows, among other signs, the warming up of the relations.

[Katzenell] But it is on a rather sour note, is it not, that 'Amr Musa, amongst all the official visitors who come to Israel, is the only one who refused to visit Yad Vashem?

[Biran] The Egyptian Embassy indicated to us that it is not a question of refusal, but the fact that it will be a very short visit and that some of the things he would have liked to do, he can't do this time. They pointed out that there is no question in principle and presented us a very vivid example of their attitude towards Yad Vashem: the fact that the minister of oil and energy visited Israel about a fortnight ago, did visit Yad Vashem, and participated in a prayer there.

[Katzenell] So if the cold peace is warming, when are we going to see a visit by President Mubarak at long last?

[Biran] I am afraid that with all my illusions, I do not consider myself to be the spokesman of the president of Egypt. I can only quote what he says: He assures us that there is no question in principle regarding a possible visit by him to Israel. It is only a matter of deciding the time and the right preparations. He recently met with Prime Minister Rabin in Taba. I hope it is a good sign that he is coming nearer to us. We would welcome him whenever he decides to come, and I hope it won't be too long before we see him here. [end recording]

Peres, Musa Hold Meetings

TA3008164194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his ministry heads today met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his aides. The Egyptians demanded that Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Minister Peres replied that the process should begin with confidence-building measures, after which the conventional weapons arsenals should be reduced, and only after peace is established with every country in the region will the Middle East be clear of weapons of mass destruction. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it was agreed that an Egyptian delegation will visit in about a month to discuss arms control.

The Egyptian guests demanded that Palestinian prisoners be released and the number of territories residents allowed to enter Israel be reduced. [as heard] Minister Peres said in response that the Palestinians must fight terrorism.

Also at the meeting, the Egyptians suggested that a court rule in the dispute over the Dayr al-Sultan site in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Minister Peres replied that this problem cannot be resolved in court.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 30 August carries a Yiftah El'azar report on Ministers Peres and Musa's improvised news conference held after their meeting. Confirming that he will visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Musa says in a recorded passage in English: "We are very much sensitive to your sensitivities. The program is a good one, and I hope that this visit will add to the good cooperation that exists between Israel and Egypt and to further the relations between our two countries."

[El'azar adds: "For the first time in their 15 years of peace, Israel and Egypt are engaged in talks on a warmer peace and are discussing normalization components, such as the abolishment of double taxes and the establishment of a common al-'Aqabah-Taba-Elat free trade zone.

["After the meeting, Musa said Egypt would help Israel to understand the Syrians' language. He stressed that in negotiating with Syria, Israel must remember the price." In another recorded passage, Musa says in English: "Peace with Syria would require by necessity a full withdrawal from the Golan. It is all for all: full peace for full withdrawal, there is no question about that. Let us not fool ourselves: There could not be peace without full withdrawal."]

Musa Meets Arab MK's

TA3108062194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpts] After his meeting with Shim'on Peres, the Egyptian foreign minister met with a delegation of Arab Israeli Knesset members who called on him to encourage steps in the peace process which would help the Rabin government to win reelection in 1996. 'Amr Musa also met last night with Likud leaders who agreed to the meeting only after Musa said he would visit Yad Vashem. More from reporter David Ze'ev.

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[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Steps requested by the Arab Knesset members in their meeting with Foreign Minister Musa included what were termed public relations measures, such as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak agreeing to visit Israel and measures by Syria to prove it wants peace. Members of the delegation say Musa was told these steps would improve the Rabin government's standing among the Israeli public. [passage omitted]

Next in line at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem were Likud leaders who, as expected, encountered sharp difference of opinion with Foreign Minister Musa on such issues as the future of the Golan Heights. Likud chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu:

[Netanyahu] Mr. Musa said that al-Asad wants a complete withdrawal of Israel from the Golan Heights, and no Israeli troops on the Golan Heights, no Israeli forces. I said that that is unacceptable to the majority of the Israeli public and to the majority of the Israeli Knesset, and that this cuts across parties. We want a real peace, and a real peace must be a peace that Israel and Israeli soldiers can defend, and that is obviously not commensurate with al-Asad's views.

[Ze'ev] Still, Netanyahu said he welcomed Musa's initiative to meet with the opposition, and he said the two sides agreed they should continue to meet in the future. Netanyahu also said he welcomed the foreign minister's decision to visit Yad Vashem after all. Earlier, a Netanyahu aide said the Likud leader told Israeli Foreign Minister Peres that the opposition leader would not meet with Musa unless he reversed his earlier decision not to visit the Holocaust museum. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 31 August 94, in an ITIM report on page one, reports that Netanyahu told Musa that "an independent Palestinian state would be another Islamic threat to Egypt." "Israel and Egypt have a common interest to ensure that a Palestinian state will not be established. This, because 'Arafat does not want and is not capable of combatting Islamic terror."]

Rabin, Musa Meet

TA3108083294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at his office in Jerusalem this morning. During the meeting Rabin thanked the Egyptians for their help in settling the affair of the Pakistani prime minister's visit. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that according to the solution raised by the Egyptians, Mrs. Bhutto will reach the Gaza Strip by air, while her and her entourage's passports will be stamped by the Israelis at the Rafah border crossing.

Our correspondent notes that at the meeting the Egyptian foreign minister again demanded that Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Prime Minister Rabin said Israel is prepared to join a regional agreement, but noted that Syria has not joined the international treaty and that Egypt cannot make a commitment on this matter on behalf of Iran and Iraq. It was finally concluded that the matter will be discussed at a meeting between David 'Ivri, the Defense Ministry's director general, and the Egyptian representative to the Middle East multilateral arms control committee. Our correspondent reports that the prime minister raised the issue of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] MIA's from the Yom Kippur War, and that he and Musa also discussed Palestinian control in the autonomy and the negotiations with Syria.

Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that the Egyptian foreign minister is currently meeting with President 'Ezer Weizman.

Weizman Meets Musa, Invites Mubarak

TA3108095694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpt] President 'Ezer Weizman has invited Egyptian President Mubarak to visit Israel. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that in the course of his talk with the Egyptian foreign minister this morning, President Weizman emphasized to his guest that President Mubarak's visit would be important in warming up bilateral relations. In the course of the talk, the Egyptian guest invited the president for a visit to Egypt, but our correspondent emphasizes that the president has not yet responded to the invitation.

Nuclear disarmament was also raised during discussion. The Egyptian foreign minister noted to the president the importance Egypt attaches to this issue and to Israel's willingness to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty or to agreeing to the establishment of a nuclear-free region in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Peres Tells 'Arafat Bhutto Can Visit Autonomy

TA3108065094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be able to visit Gaza after all, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told PLO head, Yasir 'Arafat, after consulting with the prime minister. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has the details.

[Begin recording] [Raz] She will be able to come to Gaza after all. Following the strong statements, everybody, both in Israel and in the PLO, sought to get off their high horses. Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that the matter would be alright. Peres said this to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The two spoke on the telephone while the foreign minister was hosting his counterpart, 'Amr Musa, for a formal dinner at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. The foreign minister could announce that the incident was over, in fact.

[Peres] On the Pakistani issue, 'Arafat was very happy that this matter was satisfactorily concluded. I also told

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him we had no intention to harm the peace process, nor him or the Palestinian Authority. There was disorder simply. When things are in order, I do not see any problems.

[Raz] So she will come to the autonomy next week?

[Peres] I do not know the dates, but an Israeli consent was given. The problem concerned procedure rather than Mrs. Bhutto. Naturally, Mrs. Bhutto's statement did not make matters easier.

[Raz] As in several incidents in the past, the Egyptians were active this time too. A senior Egyptian element, probably Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, appealed to the prime minister's bureau, asking that the visit does take place. The prime minister's bureau said the appeal was being checked out and an answer was expected soon. 'Amr Musa will arrive at Prime Minister Rabin's bureau in a short while. It is possible that he will receive the positive answer then, and all that is left to do now is to wait and see when Mrs. Bhutto will reach the autonomy in Gaza. [end recording]

Rabin on PNA, Early Elections

TA3108100794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] does not deal with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror this will make the continued political process difficult. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that at a meeting of the Labor faction which convened before the Knesset debate this morning, the prime minister said that Israel does not demand that 'Arafat struggle against Hamas' political views, but against its terror. According to Rabin, this is one of the difficult problems we have in our relations with the Palestinian Authority. The second problem concerns the economic situation in the Gaza Strip. Rabin says that $400 million are waiting for the Palestinian Authority, but 'Arafat has not set up the necessary institutions to receive money from the donor countries.

At the Labor faction's discussion the prime minister made it clear that, as long as he is prime minister, his term will last to the very end and elections will not be brought forward. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that according to Rabin, the government has not yet completed its duties in the political and economic spheres. Earlier, our correspondent Shmu'el Tal had learned that senior Labor members, including Ministers Ben-Eli'ezer and Shahal, believe that preparations should be made for early elections, and that an election campaign committee should be established at once, because of the possibility that the government will hold a national referendum on the Golan next year. During the meeting this morning, several Knesset members [MK's] attacked the announcement on early elections, saying it undermines the government's stability in terms of public opinion. According to them, the release of such an announcement stems from ambitions and personal frustrations of Labor elements. Nisim Zvili, Labor's secretary, also emphasizes that Knesset elections will be held on time, and there is no intention to bring them forward.

In reaction, MK Yehoshu'a Matza, the head of the Likud Secretariat, says the Likud has been preparing for early elections for two months.

Country Opposes PLO Election Proposal

TA3108094894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Israel is opposed to a proposal recently submitted by the PLO on elections in the territories. According to the document the PLO submitted, 'Arafat wants to hold general elections for a total of 100 representatives who will constitute the Palestinian Authority's parliament. A legislative authority as well as an executive authority will be elected, according to the PLO proposal. Israel rejects the document, although no discussion has yet been held on this issue between official Israeli and Palestinian representatives. Jerusalem talks of much smaller-scale elections: for only 30 representatives, some of whom will be elected to a steering committee. It may be stated that Israel views the elections in the territories as Histadrut elections, while the PLO views them as elections for a Palestinian government and a Palestinian Knesset.

At the same time, a senior security element says that if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is required to withdraw its units from the centers of West Bank towns before the elections, according to the agreement, the IDF will recommend that Palestinian police forces be allowed to enter the towns. Yesterday Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that the exit of IDF forces from West bank towns will make it difficult to protect the settlers. The senior security element explained that the Declaration of Principles did not determine the security authority in the centers of towns upon the IDF's withdrawal from there. The defense establishment recommends that the political echelon decide on the security authority. If Israel remains responsible for security in the towns, the IDF will only reduce, rather than fully withdraw, its forces. If the PLO assumes the security responsibility, it will then have to safeguard the Israelis who will move through the towns, as is the case in Jericho and Gaza. If this is the decision indeed, the IDF will recommend that Palestinian police forces be introduced into the large West Bank towns, in parallel with the IDF's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

Official To Attend DPRK Talks in U.S.

TA3008110894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, leaves for the United States today to meet with

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Robert Garlucci, head of the U.S. team to the talks with North Korea on reducing its nuclear activity.

Bentzur will call on the United States to raise the supply of long-range missiles to countries that threaten Israel, such as Iran, again in next month's talks. In the previous meeting, North Korea rejected a U.S. request not to supply surface-to-surface missiles to Iran. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Israel and North Korea held secret talks on that issue last year, but the contacts were terminated at the request of the United States.

Chief of Staff on Hizballah; Denies Syria Talks

TA3008174794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said today that Lebanon can, with Syrian backing, curb Hizballah in south Lebanon. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] employs every means to guard Israel's northern border and to inflict damage and losses on Hizballah. The chief of staff was the guest of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] In the nature of things, the remote war in Lebanon was the first issue on the committee's agenda. IDF officers reported that last month, the incidence of terrorist attacks in the north rose from the previous month: 43 versus 33 attacks. We lost three men, Hizballah lost eight. Yet the officers added that the number of terrorist attacks in central and southern Israel—including Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—has dropped. [passage omitted]

The chief of staff added: With Syrian backing, Lebanon can curb Hizballah. A few quiet months in south Lebanon, the chief of staff said, will make an agreement with Lebanon possible. In any event, no talks on security arrangements with Lebanon are under way at present.

The chief of staff noted that no talks on security arrangements with Syria are being held at present. His statement came in response to Binyamin Netanyahu's question regarding rumors of such arrangements. A few weeks ago Netanyahu maintained that these were facts, not rumors. Netanyahu further inquired about the chief of staff's remarks in Washington that the IDF must remain on the Golan Heights even after peace is achieved.

[Baraq] I have heard no one giving a political interpretation to my statement. It is not a new statement, I made it several times on various occasions, and in this forum too, in the past. As long as this situation continues, we need every meter of the Golan Heights for early warning, for depth for defensive combat, and as platform for a counteroffensive. From the professional military point of view, we ought to be on the Golan Heights even when peace comes. At the same time, we live in a democratic country in which the elected government, and not the professional opinion of the military, decides political issues. An elected government can even decide to maintain a defense line that lies beyond—to a greater or a lesser extent—that proposed by the IDF's professional echelons.

[Nir] Addressing the performance of the Palestinian police in Gaza and the IDF redeployment in Judaea and Samaria, the chief of staff said the IDF pullback from cities will disrupt the Jewish settlers' lives. He says the issue is very complex, and the political echelons are familiar with the complexities and with the IDF stands. The chief of staff noted that nothing is compelling us to give up our responsibility for security in the territories, and the more so when we see what kind of security the Palestinians can offer in locations under their control. As for the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip, the chief of staff said they are in a process of learning and adjustment, but he is not sure that they will be more competent in three months. In any event, it is now tackling Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip to a certain extent and making progress to a certain extent, although its progress is far from what we would like to see. We see the Palestinian Authority's success in curbing terror as its ultimate test, the chief of staff told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [end recording]

Russian Envoy Meets With Rabin, Peres

TA2608132894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Yeltsin's special envoy to the Middle East, today said that Russia would try to make use of its special relations with Syria in order to promote the peace process. Posuvalyuk met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning. The envoy added that Russia would continue to sell arms to Syria within the framework of general relations between the two countries.

In the meeting with Rabin, Posuvalyuk also reiterated his government's demand to participate in any arrangements on Jerusalem's future status. Our correspondent Shani Litman reports.

[Begin recording] [Litman] Viktor Posuvalyuk told Prime Minister Rabin today that Russia was using its contacts with Syria to convince Damascus to actively participate in the peace process. Posuvalyuk's visit to Israel closes his Middle East tour after he earlier visited Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

As for the chances of negotiations with Lebanon, the Russian envoy said he had received the impression that the Lebanese Government was eager to reach a deal with Israel. Posuvalyuk reiterated Russia's position with regard to Jerusalem.

[Posuvalyuk, in English] When time will come to decide something about Jerusalem, religiously or politically, we want to remind the world that Russia has the....

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[Litman interrupts with superimposed translation of above remarks into Hebrew and continues] When the time comes for any political or religious decisions about Jerusalem, we would like to remind the world that Russia has the largest Christian Orthodox community in the world. Therefore, we believe that we have a right to be represented in any attempt to resolve the Jerusalem issue.

The two men also discussed the Palestinian track and Rabin pointed out three major problems in Israel's relations with the Palestinians: terrorist attacks, economic difficulties, and the clauses dealing with Israel's destruction in the Palestinian Covenant. Rabin asserted that without the secret channel in the talks with Jordan, Israel would not have been able to attain its present achievements. Rabin noted that no such secret channel existed in the negotiations with Syria. [end recording]

The Russian envoy also met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who said that Jerusalem would not become an issue for negotiations on the international agenda. The Russian envoy gave Peres indications that the Lebanese Government wanted to reach a peace accord with Israel; however, Foreign Minister Peres said that this was not new. Peres asserted that Israel was sure that Syria would not permit Lebanon to make independent progress in the talks. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin recording] [Segal] A short while ago, Foreign Ministry Shim'on Peres delivered an unequivocal message to Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk. Jerusalem, Peres said, was not an issue for international discussion and Israel had no intention of letting other countries participate in discussing its political future. Peres told Posuvalyuk that Israel would only agree to discuss Jerusalem from the religious aspect of the Christian and Muslim holy sites.

[Peres] Israel has no intention of placing the issue of Jerusalem on the international agenda. As far as we are concerned, the issue of Jerusalem is completely closed from the political aspect. If the Eastern Orthodox Church has some requests or expectations, we shall be pleased to hear them just like we listen to those of the Catholic Church. From the political aspect, the Palestinians and Israel agreed that the two parties would hold joint discussions at the appropriate time.

[Segal] Posuvalyuk told Peres that officials in Beirut had signalled a Lebanese readiness to reach an arrangement with Israel. Jerusalem sources say these signals present nothing new. Indications of Lebanon's desire to reach an arrangement according to which Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon's security zone have been arriving all the time. The Russian envoy himself told Peres that the whole thing did not strike him as realistic. Foreign Minister Peres expressed the assessment that Syria would not permit Lebanon to make progress without parallel progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

[Peres] He indeed delivered such a message but he also said that Russia was not so naive and was aware of the situation.

[Segal] How does Israel see this?

[Peres] Israel realizes that Lebanon regrettably does not have much say with regard to its own situation.

[Segal] So Syria remains unprepared for such an arrangment?

[Peres] In my opinion, Syria will not permit Lebanon to reach an arrangement with Israel before Damascus or even outside the framework of an arrangement with Syria. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Curfew Imposed on Hebron

TA3108062394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the center of Hebron this morning. Security sources told our correspondent that the curfew on the center of Hebron was imposed because of operational activity to search for a wanted person hiding in the area.

Further on Search for Illegal Palestinian Workers

IDF Seize Workers, Not 'Terrorists'

TA2908054094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has clarified that several Palestinians who were caught near Kibbutz Nahal 'Oz last week were not terrorists, as had been reported. The spokesman says the Palestinians from the Gaza Strip were simply looking for work but without permits.

ID, Exit Permit Forgery Reviewed

TA2908153294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Eli Bohadana]

[Text] While the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police intensify security arrangements at the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel, the Palestinians find new methods to sneak into Israeli territory. The Shimshon District police, under the command of Assistant Commander David Sade, and the Palestinian police are currently investigating suspicions that Israeli and Palestinian gangs forge large quantities of blue Israeli ID's and exit permits.

The price of a forged ID is up to 400 shekels, and an exit permit costs some 300 shekels. Over the past several weeks, a new method to forge the documents was found to be used by Israeli and the Palestinian gangs The

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Shimshon District police have recently detained dozens of Palestinian workers who were found possessing such forged documents.

The large number of detentions raised the suspicion that the authorities are facing an organized ring. The investigation revealed that two gangs operate in Gaza providing forged documents on demand, and that they are being printed in local shops. Assistant Commander Sade has reported that the investigation also found that an Israeli gang is also operating in this field.

Police Continue Arrests

TA3008064094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] More than 50 Palestinian workers were arrested yesterday, after being caught inside the Green Line without work permits. Six in Jerusalem were specifically barred by the security service. Two Israeli employers were detained for questioning.

Ministry Reacts to Military Spokesman Remarks

TA2908094294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Sharp criticism was leveled during a meeting of the Foreign Ministry's top echelon yesterday against statements issued over the weekend by the Defense Ministry spokesman.

In these statements the Defense Ministry spokesman denied the report that Lebanon is signaling to Israel its desire to hold negotiations with Israel on an arrangement between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministry criticism was voiced by the deputy head of the Center for Political Research. He said it was a mistake on the part of the Defense Ministry spokesman to issue a statement saying that Syria believes negotiations with Lebanon must not be separated from those with Syria itself. The Foreign Ministry official said it is unwise for Israel to publicly announce its acceptance of a Syrian veto of any dialogue between Israel and Lebanon. He also said it would be unwise to downplay the signals that have come from Lebanon on this issue. [passage omitted]

Breakthrough Seen in Egyptian Industrialists' Visit

TA3008100094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] A delegation of 27 senior Egyptian businessmen and industrialists is now visiting Israel. They are members of the Federation of Egyptian Industries, and their arrival here has been called a major breakthrough by both sides. The Egyptians have already met with Trade and Industry Minister Mikha Harish. Dick Winter reports on the outcome:

[Begin recording] [Winter] The president of the delegation, Farid Khamis, described his group as the largest and most important gathering of Egyptian industrialists to travel from his country in the last 20 years.

[Khamis] It is a practical, real breakthrough. It is not an official one, because the official relations is there since 16 years, but this is a practical, real breakthrough in the relationship between the two industries and business people in both countries.

[Winter] Do you see it as a real chance, an economic development between Israel and Egypt? A cold peace turning into a warm one?

[Khamis] I think both countries has no choice but to go this way.

[Winter] Khamis added that the members of his delegation, in developing a new working relationship with Israel, would use their economic power to, in his words, make a better world for our children.

Trade and Industry Minister Mikha Harish also emphasized the special nature of this breakthrough with Egypt, the fact that, for the first time, not only government officials but leading members of the private business sector are now willing to come to Israel and talk about economic cooperation.

I also asked Harish if 16 years after the peace treaty, the Egyptian business elite had finally gotten the green light from above to warm up the peace with Israel.

[Harish] We know there is a green light coming from the president and going down. It is more than a green light; it is an effort to go ahead with the agreement. It has been said by President Mubarak to Prime Minister Rabin in the last meeting. It has been said by Ambassador Basyuni here in Israel to myself and to my colleagues, and it was said by the delegation itself.

[Winter] In the next few days, the delegation will visit the Gaza Strip to explore the possibilities of investment in the Palestinian Authority. [end recording]

Customs Director Ends 'Secret' Visit to Indonesia

TA3008131794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Aug 94 p C2

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] The directors of the Customs and Value Added Tax [VAT] Departments concluded an official visit to Indonesia yesterday. The visit was kept secret until the men left the Muslim state.

The delegation was headed by Arye Zeif, the director of the Customs and VAT departments. He was accompanied by his deputy 'Ami Segal, who is in charge of the

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Investigations Department and Efrayim Aviram, the Israeli customs representative in Hong Kong, who organized the visit. The delegation spent six days in Indonesia.

The visit came at the invitation of the director of Indonesia's Customs Department and had the approval of the Indonesian authorities. This is the first official visit by a senior Israeli figure to this country since Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited in October 1994.

During the tour, discussions were held regarding cooperation with Indonesian customs, in the field of drug interdiction, among other things.

The parties agreed to continue contacts until a cooperation agreement was signed.

The delegation members visited customs stations, airports, and seaports around Indonesia, and also met with Indonesian colleagues. They also visited the central computer of Indonesian customs and toured Jakarta and Bali.

The Israeli representatives arrived in Indonesia via Hong Kong, after visiting China, where Zeif signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the customs sphere.

Ben-Ya'ir: IDF May Evacuate MK's From Territories

TA2808151994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] A legal opinion prepared recently by Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir addresses the scope of parliamentary immunity and freedom of movement of Knesset members [MK's] in the territories (areas) and stipulates that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police may evacuate MK's from these areas when the need arises.

Ben-Ya'ir rules that in light of the needs and special circumstances in the territories, "the free movement and access of MK's in the areas is more limited than in Israel." The attorney general rules that when a decision to close off an area results in the limiting of movement or access to MK's, "the parties responsible for security and public order in the areas (the Army and the police) have the permission and authorization to prevent MK's from entering such a place and even to evacuate them."

The attorney general nevertheless pointed out that "in using their authority to limit the freedom of movement and access of MK's, the security forces must denote sufficient consideration to the constitutional importance of free movement and access for an MK on the job, even when dealing with areas occupied by Israel under the control of a military government."

The attorney general added that "any decision to declare an area a closed military zone and which results in limited accessibility or a limitation on the amount of time MK's can spend in the area will be made—as far as circumstances permit—by senior officers and specifically after reviewing the circumstances at the site and balancing security needs and public order against the MK's freedom of movement and access." Ben-Ya'ir also notes that from this aspect, the IDF authorities in the areas must respect the immunity of MK's, including their right to free movement and access, to the extent possible.

A senior legal source clarified that any decision by a military commander to close off an area is subject to the review of the High Court of Justice.

Mosad, Shin Bet Budget Approved by Government

TA2908142794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p A10

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Shade]

[Text] The budget of the secret services—The Mosad and the Shin Bet—will total approximately one billion shekels for the 1995 fiscal year. This is approximately the same level of the 1994 year, except for a minor rise stemming from the salary agreements in the economy and a one-time aid package requested by the Shin Bet for redeployment purposes in the wake of the agreements with the Palestinians.

The Mosad and Shin Bet budgets are not part of the defense budget, but are rather allocated from the general reserves clause of the state budget, and are approved by the Knesset foreign affairs and defense subcommittee on intelligence affairs. Security and economic sources say that contrary to the tension between the Treasury and the defense establishment against the background of budget controversies, the secret services have reached an understanding with the Treasury regarding their needs.

Sources See Changes in IDF Plans Due to Budget

TA3008115794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 94 p 19

[Text] Reacting to the decision not to increase the defense budget by 600-700 million shekels, as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had demanded, senior Army sources said last night: "The IDF multiyear plan will be harmed. We will have to change significant components of it. There is a fear that we may have to dismantle units and perhaps even close bases."

The sources stressed that the Army will have no choice but to update the multiyear plan and change it to some extent. The Army is saying that it has not yet been compensated for its expenditures on Operation Accountability to the tune of 102 million shekels, which the IDF had to finance from outside the scope of the plan.

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In the coming months, the various corps and branches will present a "tailored plan," as the Army calls it. "We will have to locate budgetary sources to make the plan correspond with the needs. This means that the multiyear plan will be hurt. The supplementary budget we requested was meant to compensate us for unexpected outlays. Now that we are not getting it, we will have to change the plans. To demonstrate the difficulties, the Army says that the Cave of the Patriarchs operation, which started after the massacre there, cost approximately 40 million shekels, spent on reinforcing units, additional food supplies, and reconstruction and building work. In addition, there has been an increase in the ongoing costs of operational activity in Lebanon and the territories. [no closing quote as published]

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Al-Majali on Peace Talks, PLO Ties, Syria

JN3108090694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
31 Aug 94 p 8

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Lima Nabil for AL-RA'Y and the London-based AL-HAWADITH magazine in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Nabil] The great optimism expressed during the talks held in Washington, Wadi al-'Arabah, and al-'Aqabah has suffered a setback in the aftermath of the talks held on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. Does this mean that the talks will be arduous and tough and that they could drag on for a long time extending into next year, contrary to what was previously announced?

[Al-Majali] We have always been optimists. With regard to a deadline for concluding the talks, I would like to say that no such deadline has ever been set. The talks concern formidable and thorny issues that have accumulated over the past years. Setbacks might be encountered along the road. Time is needed to complete the talks. We have expressed optimism that the ongoing talks will cover reasonable ground by the end of the year. Nonetheless, this does not mean that we have set a deadline for concluding the talks.

[Nabil] Barring the rescheduling of debts, which will not take effect immediately, Jordan has not made any concrete gains from the peace process. By contrast, the gains the Israelis have made are greater. And this lends credence to the Jordanian opposition view that the normalization of ties with Israel has preceded the conclusion of a peace treaty. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Majali] I want to make it clear that Jordan has nothing to lose from the peace process. If it had not envisaged short-term or long-term gains from this process, Jordan would not have endorsed the negotiations in the first place.

The immediate favorable response of the U.S. Congress, the letters the U.S. Administration has sent tc European creditor nations asking them to write off whatever debts they can and reschedule the rest, the efforts being made to demarcate the borders, and the opening of border crossings for tourists are all manifestations of financial or moral gains. As for the gains made, they are mutual. The negotiations are continuing. There is give-and-take in these negotiations. The issues we are discussing are not easy. They have remained bones of contention for many long years. We have also to take into account the fact that we are negotiating with people to whom emotions are of little value. At the end of the road, if the outcome of the negotiations is found to be unsatisfactory to us, we will not accept it. All that I have mentioned are tangible and concrete results that have begun to bear fruit on the Jordanian and international scenes. I have previously said that there are no winners and losers in the peace battle. It is important that all sides benefit from this process. I am confident that the near future will witness clear and positive results that would promote the peace process, God willing.

[Nabil] In your recent statements you said there will be no comprehensive peace in the region without Iraq. Does this mean that there is a Jordanian role in this field? And has this subject been discussed in Washington during His Majesty King Husayn's visit? Is the visit to Turkey by His Highness Prince Hasan and the visit to Jordan by the Turkish president related to this subject?

[Al-Majali] Iraq is one of the countries of the region. Within the framework of the comprehensive solution, no country of the region should be outside this solution. However, we did not seek Iraq's admission into the peace process, but other quarters are doing this. His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to close Arab ranks are not new. His majesty has spared no effort that is in the interest of the Arab nation. Jordan has always been the first to have faith in the comprehensive Arab position and comprehensive coordination between all Arab brothers. During his majesty's tours and visits and his meetings with world leaders, he has always conveyed the Arab nation's causes rather than the Jordanian causes. Therefore, the comprehensive solution is out of the question because all countries of the region are supposed to be part of the peace process.

[Nabil] The PLO protested the jurisdiction over the holy places and launched a campaign through 'Arafat's messages and visits to leaders of some Arab countries concerned. How do you interpret this?

[Al-Majali] Religious jurisdiction over the holy places in the West Bank and Jerusalem has been a Hashemite responsibility since the beginning of this century. All know that Sharif Husayn, whose body is buried in that holy city, paid with his life for this holy mission, and the same was the case with the founder king ['Abdallah Bin-Husayn]. The brothers in the PLO are aware of this. When the disengagement decision was made, the PLO approved the continuation of Jordan's religious jurisdiction. In my opinion, the brothers should not have made this subject an issue of debate and disagreement. As you know, the subject of Jerusalem has been deferred for two years after the beginning of the self-rule. After that period, and based on the perspective of this country's leadership whose objective is to overcome all differences between brothers, there will only be understanding and agreement. We are one people and one family, and we always have good intentions toward others. Jordan believed that this subject should be mentioned in the Washington Declaration because failure to mention it would mean dropping it.

[Nabil] At one stage, Jordan said that it informed the countries participating in the peace process, particularly Syria, of developments in the talks. The other countries did not abide by this. Following the Washington Declaration, many voices were heard condemning this declaration and accusing Jordan of departing from the group and of seeking a separate solution.

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[Al-Majali] Jordanian-Syrian relations are governed by coordination regarding many issues that concern both countries, as well as the Arab world. This coordination has not stopped. There is a special relationship between the Jordanian and Syrian leaders. We always believe that our relations with the Arab countries should be excellent. I believe that the cloud currently hanging over these relations is abnormal and temporary. Such a cloud will not last long and the abnormal situation will come to an end. A difference in opinion does not mean conflict or tension in relations. The equation to which Jordan adheres in terms of its Arab relations is confidence, brotherhood, and coordination.

[Nabil] What about the Jordanian-Saudi relations?

[Al-Majali] Sisterly Saudi Arabia is one of the countries with which Jordan is eager to maintain distinguished relations. God willing, the atmosphere of brotherhood will become better than before.

[Nabil] There are reports that the residents of the Israeli settlements on the occupied Jordanian territory—where border demarcation is being carried out—have been told to leave their settlements for other places inside the Israeli territory. Have you been informed of this? Does this mean the real beginning of border demarcation?

[Al-Majali] There are many details in the Jordanian-Israeli talks, and all of them are of interest to the negotiating delegation.

The ongoing talks are not easy. These are complicated issues that require much time. There are other things on the other tracks. When all topics on the agenda—which deal with the issues of borders, water, security, refugees, and displaced—are discussed, the picture will be clearer and a new situation will be created.

[Nabil] The recent Jordanian-Palestinian meetings have come about in the aftermath of a phase of stalemate and mistrust. How do you view the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship at present?

[Al-Majali] It is extremely regrettable that there is no coordination between the Jordanians and Palestinians even though we have always described the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as special. Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, and even before that, we in Jordan have attempted to effect a true and practical coordination with the Palestinians. Nonetheless, the coordination has failed to materialize.

The relationship between us and the Palestinians, which we have always termed as special, is indeed special. Given this state of affairs, coordination is required. Undoubtedly, we have a common destiny. This state of affairs should remain unchanged. We should trust each other. We have done our utmost to help our brothers within the PLO. We have provided an umbrella for the joint delegation. We have refused to negotiate or sign agreements on behalf of the Palestinians. Additionally, we have facilitated procedures on the bridges, provided training for the Palestinian police force, and supplied them with military uniforms and equipment. All these moves must be viewed as confidence-building measures. All that we seek is to see the Palestinians obtain their natural and legitimate rights, exercise these rights, and determine their destiny.

[Nabil] Should we expect an imminent meeting between King Husayn and President 'Arafat?

[Al-Majali] We have not received an official request to set a date for such a meeting. However, the brothers within the PLO delegation that has recently visited Amman said during the recent talks held with them in Jordan that they seek such a meeting. It goes without saying that this desire will be reciprocated. But, no date has been set for such a meeting.

[Nabil] Observers have stated that a climate of tension permeated the recent Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, which were the first to be held between Jordan and the PLO since the signing of the Washington Declaration.

[Al-Majali] There was no tension. We are brothers and we constantly meet. Sometimes we have differences of opinion regarding a certain issue. Nonetheless, these differences never create tension, because tension is harmful to both sides. While discussing various issues with the Palestinians, we exhibit a good and fraternal spirit. Our interests are so intertwined that they are not affected by such tensions, which are fabricated by the news media.

As for the recent meetings held with the Palestinians, they came after a long hiatus caused by the fact that the fraternal Palestinian leaders were busy finalizing arrangements for their entry into Gaza and Jericho and addressing other issues.

Al-Majali Addresses International Affairs Council

JN3108122394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that his majesty the king had always called for achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Dr. al-Majali said such peace should be based on recognition of the legitimate rights of all peoples of the region. He said relations between countries in the region should be based on mutual respect, and that all peoples in the area should live in peace.

Dr. al-Majali added: Reaching peace, as seen by Jordan, depends on three factors, including democracy, respect of human rights of the peoples of the region, and establishing comprehensive security and regional cooperation.

The prime minister's remarks came in a lecture he delivered at the Los Angeles-based International Affairs Council.

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Al-Majali Interview in U.S. Paper Reported

JN3108104094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan insists that all topics on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda should be discussed and resolved. In an interview with the managing editors of the American newspaper LOS ANGELES TIMES, he said: Our negotiating approach is characterized by rationalism and we are discussing our water rights and joint ventures. He reviewed the latest developments of the peace process and the constant Jordanian position toward it. Dr. al-Majali stressed the need to restore the Jordanian lands occupied by Israel, pointing out that Israel has not seized these lands by war, but under security pretexts which are no longer valid.

Answering a question on the issue of Jerusalem, Dr. al-Majali said the Hashemites' relationship with the holy places is a clear historical relationship. He added that the Jordanian role in terms of guarding and looking after these places continued after the Israeli occupation of them in 1967. He noted that the PLO had asked Jordan to continue its role in the holy places even after the severance of ties with the West Bank in 1988. He said that this role had to be mentioned in the Washington Declaration, or else the holy places would have become an Israeli responsibility because the Palestinians have not yet reached an agreement with the Israelis on the issue of Jerusalem.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli track, Dr. al-Majali said progress must be made on this track and that Israel should accept to return land in exchange for peace. He explained that this progress is not the responsibility of the Syrian side, but Israel. He pointed out that the Israeli public opinion supports its government, and this should serve as an incentive to move ahead on the Syrian track.

On the blockade imposed on Iraq, Dr. al-Majali said Jordan believes it is time for pressure on the Iraqi people to be lifted, especially since the UN reports indicate that Iraq is implementing the Security Council resolutions and that it has done what it was required to do.

Concerning the possibility of achieving durable peace in the region without Iraq, he said that Jordan does not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries, but realizing a durable peace requires the participation of all parties.

Prime Minister Addresses Rand Institute

JN3008121094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 94 p 7

["Full text" of speech by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the Los Angeles-based Rand Foundation on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on 28 August]

[Text] On a calm summer's day last month, His Majesty King Husayn announced that the state of war between Jordan and Israel was finally over.

No doubt many of you watched the ceremony on the White House lawn and saw His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Rabin meet for the first time. Many of you will have followed the various developments since that historic July afternoon; their addresses to a joint session of the two houses of Congress, His Majesty's return to Jordan, overflying Israeli territory for the first time, and the implementation of several bold measures intended to speed the achievement of peace on the ground. Of these, perhaps the most telling have been the opening of direct telephone links and a new border crossing point between Jordan and Israel; for both of these symbolise the new spirit of communication and openness between our countries. Not a day passes without our removing another brick from the wall that has separated us.

It might seem to some of you that these breakthroughs have come out of the blue. However, they are in reality a delayed response to the logical progression of the Madrid peace process to this point. They take place against a background of considered, long-term and carefully negotiated peacemaking. I would like today to retrace some of this background with you, to place these breakthroughs in context, and to make some remarks as to the possibilities for the future.

Jordan has been committed to a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict longer than any other party, Jordan played an active role in formulating U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and has consistently supported Resolution 242 and 338 as the basis for peace in the Middle East. Our commitment to the cause of peace has never been in question. Indeed, Jordan played a key role in enabling the Madrid process to be launched at all. For back in October 1991, when the Israeli government of the day refused to negotiate with a Palestinian delegation, it was Jordan which provided an umbrella for Palestinian negotiators.

Since then the peace process has made significant strides towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestine question that lies at its heart on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO, and the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy accord, were vital achievements. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are negotiating directly with Israel. They are installed in Gaza and Jericho, and conduct their affairs under hard conditions with a certain degree of freedom. Their destiny is at last in their own hands. For all the Arab parties, this is cause for optimism, representing as it does the beginning of a new era in the region.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the common agenda for peace talks with Israel has been vitally important. The significance of this agenda, agreed last year, cannot be

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overestimated. It has provided a framework for substantive negotiations, and given us a workable context within which to carry out a series of moves designed to breach the gap between the sides, both at the negotiating table and among domestic constituencies.

The range of agreements reached in Washington two months ago were the first fruits of the common agenda. At that time, Jordan and Israel formed a joint commission to deal with the issues of borders, security, water and the environemnt. We agreed to undertake a number of common projects, including the construction of a Red Sea coastal road. And we agreed, for the first time, to continue our talks in the region. So it was that bilateral Jordanian-Israeli direct talks took place last month at Wadi al-'Arabah, denoting the start of a new phase in the relationship between our two countries. These talks dealt with the questions that are the actual substance of peace: The concrete building blocks that form its architecture.

Jordan has always been prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel, given that the outstanding issues are negotiated and settled to the satisfaction of all. There would be no point in conducting peace talks otherwise. But a peace treaty has to have a content, and we are currently working on building its context. We do not want to ignore thorny problems, and hope that they will resolve themselves at a later date; for we know that a worthwhile treaty must anticipate such problems, and provide appropriate mechanisms for their resolution. In our case, the issues of borders, water and security have to be dealt with before any treaty can be signed. Our negotiating strategy has been to maintain a declicate balance between the need to address all the details of these items on the one hand, and the need to sustain the momentum of peace on the other.

Perhaps the best way to indicate to you the nature of the task at hand would be to outline our goals in each of the outstanding areas.

In terms of borders, we seek to delineate the border established by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently recognised by the U.N. as the Jordanian-Palestinian border. In the Wadi al-'Arabah talks, Jordan and Israel committed themselves to definitively demarcating the boundary, and agreed upon modalities.

In terms of water, we seek to ascertain our equitable share of the common waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers, and to work out modalities for future cooperation over water for broad regional cooperation, in the form of joint projects or sea water desalination, will ultimately be needed. [sentence as published] I am pleased to tell you that both sides are now committed to the proper management, development and conservation of existing water resources, and to cooperation in the future.

Finally, both sides have abjured any actions detrimental to each other's security. These negotiating achievements are not to be taken lightly. They indicate the best of intentions, and promise much; but they do not as yet constitute the substance of just, lasting and comprehensive peace, as envisaged by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, the progress made by our negotiators was sufficiently encouraging that the leaders of our two countries opted to meet in Washington, and to provide a public boost to the peace process.

The meeting in Washington July 25 between His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin thus came as the culmination of all our endeavours. The Washington Declaration, which they signed on the White House lawn together with President Clinton, is a key document in the history of our countries, marking a significant turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The declaration officially ends the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel, while explicitly recognising that stability and growth must be assured and seen to be assured. I have no doubt that this is well within our capabilities, given the goodwill of the international community, and the serious intentions of the parties involved.

An issue of great concern in the peace process is that of boycotts and free trade. Jordan is working for the liberalisation and dismantlement of all barriers in the region, whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. In the long term, we believe that a Middle East free trade agreement—a MEFTA along the line of NAFTA or EFTA, would be in the interests of all the peoples of the region. However, this vision cannot be realised until conditions of peace prevail.

One reason for this is the existence of an Israeli boycott of Arab trade and investment. The issue of boycotts is the rights and obligations of each party. It lays out a series of powerful confidence building measures, designed to ease the transition from the state of war to the state of peace for which we are all working, enabling Arabs and Israelis to live side by side without fear or prejudice.

The declaration also noted the need for economic negotiations to prepare for future bilateral cooperation, including the abolition of all economic boycotts.

At this point, perhaps I might turn from the political aspects of peace-making to consider its all-important economic dimension. There is a vital need to take on board the broader economic and human implications of peace, and to formulate strategies for effective response. The experience of Eastern Europe has demonstrated the importance of this. The Middle East has likewise earned the right to enjoy the peace dividend if peace is to take root on the ground.

Since 1970, Israel has had unrestricted access to the markets of the occupied territories while barring Palestinian goods from Israeli markets, preventing Palestinian investment in the occupied territories, and severely

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restricting imports and altogether prohibiting investment from the rest of the region. As a result of these policies Israel has gained a trade surplus of $7.5 billion since 1970. The Israeli boycott has cost Jordan a $2 billion deficit in the same period. Given these figures—Israel figures, incidentally—I am sure you will agree that reciprocity must be the cardinal principle in dealing with the issues of boycotts.

For Jordan, however, the paramount issue remains that of debt. The $7 billion overhang which we accumulated as a direct result of the conflict represents a real obstacle to our progressive policies. it is very hard to attract foreign investment, to upgrade infrastructure, or to participate in regional projects, with this debt burden. If Jordan is to continue supporting the peace process, to continue in our democratisation and economic liberalistion policies, to continue to be an island of stability and moderation in the Middle East, an exceptional debt relief effort is required. We hope that the American administration's bold lead on this issue and the immediate positive resonse of the United Kingdom will be followed by other creditor nations and institutions.

It is clear that the uncertainty engendered by peacemaking has its economic costs. The short run fiscal impact of peace is likely to be negative for Jordan. The World Bank estimates our GDP will be reduced by 4 per cent annually. Jordan's currency has been adversely affected by the peace process.

Conjecture as to the establishment of the Palestinian currency has led to a movement out of JD's [Jordanian dinars] and into dollars in the occupied territories. This has in turn prompted parallel speculative runs in Jordan, vastly diminishing the Central Bank of Jordan's net reserves, and raises fears of devaluation and destabilisation beyond the purely economic sphere. The speedy establishment of a stabilisation fund or a bridge loan, with the major donors involved, is in our view essential if this scenario is to be averted. Effective monitoring of the ongoing economic situation, coupled with rapid and appropriate responses, will be essential in the months to come if stability is to be assured and peacemaking is to proceed smoothly.

In the longer term, international investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples will be absolutely essential. It is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinatinal corporations alike. Direct private investment can play a key role, as can joint ventures and appropriate technology transfer. However, peace requires an enduring structure to tackle the "over-arching" problems of the economies of the region; disparities created by conflict, overextended public sectors, addiction to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. An economic framework, covering human cooperation, resources cooperation and security, is needed. The development of such a framework is therefore among the most vital tasks at hand.

Having examined the political and economic dimensions of peace-making, I would like to conclude my remarks by considering the implications for security in the Middle East.

If peace is to endure through the generations, it must guarantee security for all: not the bogus security that comes from the acquisition of ever-more destructive weaponry, but the genuine security that stems from common interests, goals and methods. In our increasingly inter-dependent world, viable structures of security and cooperation are increasingly necessary, such structures would provide a forum to discuss common challenges, and framework for collective action. To this end Jordan has long called for a conference on security and cooperation for the Middle East (CSCME), loosely based on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Such a forum, with its neutral and low key nature, would perhaps be the best place to address the contentious issues that could disrupt the peace for which we have all worked so hard. One issue is borders. In the Gulf alone, there have been no fewer than 22 active border disputes this century. A CSCE would provide a focus for non-military solutions to issues such as this; and would assist in the evolution of a common regional vision. For, to our way of thinking, the future of the Middle East hinges on the development of such a vision, backed up by appropriate instruments.

The Arab-Israeli conflict was predicated largely on the belief that the military dimension of security was, on its own, capable of furnishing a stable basis for the future. This belief has been exposed as counter-productive, and ultimately destructive. It has been of benefit only to the arms trade, ensuring that resources which would have been better spent on health and education were diverted to meet the requirements of the military. A negotiated peace will certainly mean that these requirements will be down-scaled.

The role of the military will thus be re-assessed in the light of peace-making. For Jordan's armed forces, the transition to a state of peace would not require a drastic change of orientation, as we have never sought offensive military capabilities, and have no expansionist goals. However, Jordan must be able to deter or contain external military threats, guarantee secure borders, counter all forms of extremism and terrorism and participate in regional and global peacekeeping operations under the U.N. Jordan's armed forces must be recognised and upgraded if they are to continue performing these functions successfully. This will not be possible without the assistance of the international community.

I would like to leave you with the assurance that Jordan remains committed to prompting peace, democratisation, free trade and human rights in our region. The Middle East is located at the cross-roads of the earth; it has always been of vital strategic significance. In a world that is seeking a new rationale and order for itself after

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the end of the cold war, the search for peace in the Middle East assumes great symbolic and practical importance. With the help of God, and the friends of peace world-wide, we intend to prove that peace is possible. For if our peoples can find the will and the courage to live together, then surely no conflict is insoluble.

Ship Arrivals at al-'Aqabah Port Reported

JN3108121394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 94 pp 1, 24

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla and Muhammad Khayr al-Farah from al-'Aqabah]

[Excerpt] Shipping activities at the Port of al-'Aqabah have gradually begun to return to normal since the blockade imposed on the Jordanian port was lifted on 25 August. Since then, employees of the international firm Lloyds Register have been inspecting goods at the Port of al-'Aqabah.

Engineer 'Akif Abu-Tayih, deputy director general of the Ports Authority, has informed AL-DUSTUR that 16 ships have anchored at the Port of al-'Aqabah during the first four days that followed the lifting of the blockade.

Abu-Tayih added that these ships were loaded with various goods. Four of them were loaded with vehicles, two with sheep, while two others were loaded with containers filled with various commodities, including potash, oils, wheat, and timber.

Abu-Tayih expected the arrival of more ships at the Port of al-'Aqabah during the next few days. He indicated that the contacts held by shipping corporations with the Port of al-'Aqabah officials confirm that the situation there will soon be returned to normal. [passage omitted]

$131-Million-Loan Accord Signed With Japan

JN3108061494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Tokyo (PETRA)—Japan and Jordan Tuesday signed two agreements by which Jordan will receive two soft loans that will be used for development projects. The first loan of $84 million will be used for supporting the balance of payments in the energy sector, and the other $47 million, will be used to build two new power generating units in al-'Aqabah city with a total capacity of 130 kilowatts of energy. The agreements were signed by Jordanian Ambassador to Japan Faruq Qasrawi, and the head of the Japanese Fund for Overseas Cooperation.

IAF Statement Condemns PNA 'Crack Down' on Hamas

JN3008144494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Monday issued a statement condemning the Palestine National Authority for an alleged crack down on groups belonging to the Islamic resistance group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], demanding that campaigns for arresting the Hamas members stop immediately.

The statement, which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES Monday, said that the resistance fighters in Gaza Strip are continually facing a Zionist-concocted conspiracy executed by the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

This authority, under direct pressure from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, has been arresting tens of Hamas members and has been searching homes for weapons to render the Palestinian people defenceless in the face of massacres committed by the Israeli Army and the Jewish settlers, charged the statement.

The head of the Palestine self-rule authority has pledged before the Israelis to chase away what he called "Hamas terrorism," thus serving the goals of Zionism and the enemies of the Palestinian people, said the statement.

It accused the Palestine self-rule police of firing on citizens in Rafah area causing the death and injury of tens of people.

Out of concern over the continued struggle of our people and their national unity we hold the self-rule leadership fully responsible for such practices which can never be condoned by the Palestinian people who are currently exercising self-restraint, stressed the statement.

The Arab and Islamic masses, warned the statement, can never forgive those who conspire against them or strip them of their weapons used for self-defence.

The statement urged the Arab people everywhere to extend a helping hand to the Palestinian people, and called for an immediate end to arrests of resistance groups.

It said that the conspiracy involving Palestinian police against the resistance fighters should stop and that search campaigns for weapons must cease.

The statement demanded that the political groups of the Arab and Islamic worlds urge the Palestine National Authority to halt such policies and refrain from helping to achieve Zionists' objectives.

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Al-Hariri on Palestinian Housing Decision

NC3008202594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1807 GMT 30 Aug 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents following the extraordinary cabinet session held at the presidential palace in Ba'bda—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] The cabinet discussed the issue of the Palestinians and a camp for them. Most of the ministers voiced opinions, and there was a consensus on rejecting the principle of the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon. It was decided that this was not an issue of resettlement. It was agreed to form a committee under Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr and consisting of Ministers Dallul, Tabbarah, and Iddih. The committee will study the technical aspects of what we are going to do with the Palestinians who were displaced from the camps in the eastern area during past events and to which it is impossible for them to return now. We are going to see how we will solve the problem. We have to consider their numbers, conditions, and how to solve their problem. This is the context of the issue, as I already said the day before yesterday. The issue is no more than a humanitarian problem that needs a solution. We cannot leave it without a solution.

[Correspondent] When will the committee meet?

[Al-Hariri] It will meet very soon.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] The committee will discuss all the aspects of the issue and will bring us ideas and proposals so we can decide on it.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the land has not been bought yet?

[Al-Hariri] There is an option to buy it but no purchase has been made. The committee will report to the cabinet on the land issue and how on deal with the problem.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, is it possible to have a land separate...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] I do not want to forestall the committee's report or its proposals. There is an issue and it is before all of us. There are people who used to live in one place but had to leave as a result of the war. They squatted in other people's houses, which are either owned or rented by Lebanese. The Lebanese citizen is today demanding his apartment, house, building, or hotel back. What do we do? We have to give it back to him. To do so means that we have to find a solution for the people squatting in them. We already helped a large number of them. Buildings were erected for some by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Sabra and Chatila camps. Others went to Sidon, and yet more were distributed among the other camps. The problem of many others is not yet solved. So we have to find an ideal way to solve it within this context. It is as simple as that. It has been exaggerated for reasons which I believe have nothing to do with it. There was a consensus at the cabinet session that the issue of resettlement is not under discussion. There are no differences between the ministers on the issue of whether to resettle them or not.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] Satisfactory. [Words indistinct] Minister Walid Junblatt proposed that he be included in the committee but he then agreed that the committee should be 100 percent technical, so it can present its report regardless of individuals who have their own views.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, it is being said that the committees...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] No. Impossible. His excellency referred to this and said so. It is usually said that committees mean burying the plans, but this is not the case. This is really unfair, because the cabinet referred dozens of plans to committees chaired by Minister al-Murr. They completed their work and I believe that they were successful. Many of the draft laws were referred to the Chamber of Deputies after being studied by committees formed by the cabinet. Such talk does not apply to us.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] First, this issue has been exploited. It is not a case of us having not done what we should have. It has been exploited. As I said the day before yesterday, some people will attack many of the issues that the government handles regardless of whether the government is right or wrong. I believe that we are used to this. I personally am used to it and have no problem. Now it is your turn to get used to it and to start to handle the issue according to these criteria.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] No. There is nothing of the sort. There is not a single Lebanese citizen who does not know that we have to find a solution for these people. How to find the solution? A man and a wife sometimes differ over which school to send their child to, so you can see how people can differ over this issue. The issue should not be blown out of proportion. There are people who are squatting as a result of the war and, as I said before, Minister Junblatt was the one who proposed that we should not send them back to their former places so as not to create new sensitivities. It was Minister Junblatt who originally proposed that we should put them among people we can rely on so as not to create new sensitivities.

This is really the basic proposal. This is why you have at times seen Minister Junblatt upset, because he believes that he is doing something with all his heart and then he is being attacked by the very people who are supposed to be benefiting from it.

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At any rate, the issue is small and simple and we should not exaggerate it. I believe this is an opportunity for one to draw attention to what our enemies are doing. Let us see what our enemies are doing, what they are preparing for the future, and where we have been left behind. Obstacles are being raised to building the state or [words indistinct]. Our enemies are building airports, highways, and generally improving their conditions. We here in Lebanon... [pauses] Lebanon is a country which, if it is not prepared for steadfastness or peace, will end up at the end of line. I understand that our enemies might try to block our progress, but I do not understand our complicating our own affairs ourselves. This came as a shock to me.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] My dear, my dear. Such talk is incorrect and has no foundation whatsoever. The Palestinians got in touch with us a long time ago and asked that we give them what they called their civil rights. They spoke to me; many people came to me. The subject was discussed in the media. At that time, I said that this subject cannot be discussed now because it might be interpreted as some sort of support for a unilateral agreement. Therefore, we did not go along with this issue of civil rights. This, however, is an issue that does not go beyond the small and narrow scope we have discussed. So, I beg you to approach issues as they are, not to color them with fears and apprehensions. I understand the existence of apprehensions and fears. But there are also policies. There are some people who are being harmed by the national peace march. There are some people outside the government who would like to be inside the government. There are others who have their personal and private reasons. In other words, the Lebanese should be alert to these points.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] It is a small matter. I am only presenting it within its correct framework.

[Correspondent] When the argument, even between ministers, has reached this...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] It is all right. There is nothing wrong with some ministers having different opinions. But in the end, we are a democratic country. What does that mean? Please look around and see how other democratic countries operate, whether inside the government, the parliaments, or among the people. There is no head of state in the Western world who will get 60 or 70 percent support. When he gets 50.5 percent, he considers himself to be in very good shape.

You should look and see what happens inside the governments of democratic countries. How can we want a free and democratic system and at the same time express our surprise when a minister expresses an opposing opinion? This is normal in many countries, whether friendly or hostile. This is democracy itself. There is no problem in this. The important issue here is whether these things are affecting the march of the state. Is there a basic decision that was presented to the Council of Ministers and which we failed to take a stand on? We discuss it for hours and hours, and every minister expresses his opinion. In the end, either agreement is reached over it and there is reconciliation without voting, or when there is an objection, the matter is put to a vote and the result is adopted. This is a system that we have adopted for ourselves. We find it strange sometimes, but this is the democratic system.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] I wish you were minister of refugee affairs, to see how you would deal with the situation. The Ministry of Refugee Affairs is one of the most difficult portfolios because it is trying to resolve a very difficult problem, and when it is resolved, the war and its effects in Lebanon will be resolved too. There are people who have fought with each other over these matters. You must remember the incident four or five years ago, when some people broke into other people's houses, massacred each other, and did unmentionable things. Now Minister Junblatt is being asked to get these people to sit down together, reconcile them, and make them coexist with each other once again. This is not an easy task. When one person says something bad about another person, they do not talk to each other for five years. Do you not know examples of brothers who do not talk to each other because one said something about the other? For years and years they do not speak with each other. There is a war then between these people. Minister Junblatt is being asked to erase this chapter and get these people to sit down together. I believe he is a very successful minister in this regard.

[Correspondent] There is now some sort of accusation going round that Minister Junblatt is the one who [words indistinct], when in actual fact it is the state that...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] Minister Junblatt is the minister entrusted with this task. It is only natural for us to hold him responsible for it. If there is another minister entrusted with this job, we will hold that minister responsible.

[Correspondent] The state, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Al-Hariri] What do you mean, the state?

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct].

[Al-Hariri] Yes. This is true. This is correct. Do you want to detract from Minister Junblatt's credit? If it makes you feel happy, Minister Junblatt does not mind.

[Correspondent] Are you going to put Speaker Birri in the picture?

[Al-Hariri] [aside] Could I have some water please? Actually, I am going to leave here and go see Speaker Birri.

[Correspondent] Together with Minister Junblatt?

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[Al-Hariri] Possibly with Minister Junblatt [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] I will not allow anyone to have differences or fights with anyone else.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] No. It will discuss this subject from all aspects and submit its recommendation to the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers will discuss the matter based on the recommendations it gets. It might adopt the decision, or it might not.

There is another topic that was discussed which the interior minister has offered to provide us a report on at the cabinet meeting on Thursday. This topic concerns some toxic wastes that have been sighted around. This matter will be discussed on Thursday. The Council of Ministers has made various decisions regarding issues on the agenda and approved most of them.

[Correspondent] With respect to sending a delegation to Cairo [referring to the ICPD]?

[Al-Hariri] The Council of Ministers has decided not to send a delegation, not to participate.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Prime Minister.

Amal Claims 3 Anti-Israeli Operations

NC3108060994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Amal Movement has carried out three operations against the Israeli and Lahd [South Lebanese Army] troops. In a statement just before midnight, the movement said that members of its groups attacked the Saydun position with machine guns and rockets. The statement did not mention casualties.

A second group attacked the Kafr Falus barracks.

In an earlier statement the movement said that the al-Suwayda' position was attacked with machine guns and rockets at 2315 last night. A half-tracked vehicle, an ammunition depot, and the post's western control tower were destroyed. The statement referred to casualties among the garrison manning the position.

'Faithful Resistance' Said Brought Into Hizballah

NC3108110594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 7

[Report from the "First News" page]

[Text] Sources close to the Islamists have said that the Faithful Resistance organization no longer exists, since its members have been incorporated into Hizballah.

'Islamic Resistance' Statement Claims 16 Israelis Killed

NC3108081394 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] In a statement issued on an operation launched the night before last, the Islamic Resistance said its mujahidin annihilated a Zionist group of 16 soldiers in a violent clash during which the mujahidin used hand grenades.

The Islamic Resistance heroes trod on the enemies' bodies lying motionless after the fierce confrontation.

Hizballah Disclaims Reports on Arrest of Member

NC3108105894 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 30 Aug 94 p 5

[Statement by Hizballah issued on 29 August]

[Text] Reports in various media on the arrest of Muhammad al-Dirani [a relative of kidnapped Hizballah official Mustafa al- Dirani], citing a source who was once close to Hizballah circles, do not reflect Hizballah's position and have no bearing on it.

Contrary to what some media have reported, Hizballah has made no comment on this subject through its sources or officials. When Hizballah has something to say on any issue it makes it public through the right means and procedures.

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Lebanese Arrive for Joint Committee Meetings

JN2808140394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Lebanese Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demerdjian and Lebanese Transportation Minister 'Umar Misqawi arrived in Damascus this morning leading an economic delegation of the head and members of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce.

They were welcomed at the Sahara complex by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi and Transportation Minister Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim. They were also welcomed by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council, senior officials of the Economy and Transportation Ministries, and the head of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce.

Lebanese Minister of Transportation 'Umar Misqawi and Lebanese Chamber of Commerce head 'Adnan Qassar made statements to a SANA correspondent. They expressed pleasure at visiting Syria, their second country, voicing pride in and appreciation for Syria's honorable positions, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, in support of fraternal Lebanon and its people.

The two officials lauded the continued promotion of the relations of fraternity and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon, and stressed their care for joint action to establish a common market that will serve both our people in the two countries and the Arab nation. They explained that joint ventures are being established and that other projects are being considered.

The two officials pointed out that Lebanon's participation in the Damascus International Exhibition reflects deep fraternal bilateral relations. This exhibition is an economic manifestation reflecting current economic and social development in Syria.

Nasri Khuri also made a statement. He lauded Syria's positions under President Hafiz al-Asad's national and pan-Arab leadership. He hailed the fraternal and cooperative relations between Syria and Lebanon. He said the working sessions of the Syrian-Lebanese Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, the Syrian-Lebanese Committee for Financial Cooperation, and the Syrian-Lebanese Committee for Cooperation in Transportation will be held tomorrow. These sessions will review and assess the steps taken and ways to open new horizons for this cooperation. They will also discuss the mechanism and activation of the subcommittees' work.

Meet With Counterparts

JN2908142494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] At 1000 today, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Lebanese Transportation Minister 'Umar Misqawi and Lebanese Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demerdjian. The meeting was attended by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Finance Minister Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini, State Minister for Planning Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, and Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim.

The meeting reviewed the development of economic and trade relations, as well as cooperation in transportation, agricultural, and industrial areas. Attendees also discussed the minutes and the results of previous meetings the ministries and representatives of both countries, as well as efforts to prepare a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Syrian-Lebanese follow-up and coordination committee.

Talks also covered practical proposals to implement the contents of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty and the economic cooperation agreements, as well as setting timetables for their implementation.

Romanian Trade Minister Continues Visit

Received by Ba'th Official

JN3008142694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Romanian Trade Minister Cristian Ionescu, who is also a leading member in the Romanian Democratic Socialist Party. The meeting was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. They discussed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Romanian Democratic Socialist Party and ways to promote them to serve the interests of peoples of the two friendly countries. Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed developments in the Arab region and the peace process. The Romanian minister expressed his party's interest in boosting cooperation between the two countries and voiced his admiration for the progress in Syria in all fields and the role it is playing in the region under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Meets al-Asad, Delivers Message

JN3008182594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] At 1945 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Romanian Trade Minister Cristian Ionescu and his accompanying delegation.

The Romanian minister handed the president a message from Romanian President Ion Iliscu.

Economic Talks Begin With Algeria

JN3108080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] A round of talks was held this evening between the Syrian Arab side, led by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and

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the Algerian side led by Commerce Minister Sassi Aziza at the Syrian Commercial Bank. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-'Imadi emphasized Syria's desire to develop economic relations with sisterly Algeria and to explore the possibilities of cooperation that will benefit the people in the two brotherly countries.

For his part, Aziza hailed the economic progress in Syria in light of the economic pluralism and potentials made available by the Investments Law No.10. He called for holding experts meetings through the chambers of commerce and industry in the two countries to discuss all opportunities and possibilities for bilateral economic cooperation.

The two sides reviewed possibilities for bilateral cooperation with'.. the framework of their establishments, objectives nd capabilities, and the markets available in the two countries.

IDF Chief's Comment Regarding Golan Criticized

JN3108070694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Baraq's deceptive allegations," TISHRIN comments on a statement made by Israeli army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, in which he said Israel is in need of every meter of the Golan for early warning, for the strategic depth necessary for defensive combat, and as a platform for a counteroffensive.

TISHRIN says it is clear to any observer that Israeli officials do not give weight to the principles of right and justice and to UN resolutions and that Middle East peace does not concern them except to employ it in the service of their expansionist ambitions and aggressive aspirations. Baraq's statements ignore the fact that there are more than 100,000 displaced Syrian citizens awaiting Israel's withdrawal from the Golan in order to return to their homes, recover their property, and resume their normal life.

TISHRIN emphasizes that Israel places itself above international law and gives itself the right to dispel millions of Arabs and confiscate their land. The most dangerous aspect of the Israeli practices is that these criminal actions are accompanied by false allegations of peace, as if peace means that the Arabs should relinquish their rights and submit to the Zionists' settlement designs.

TISHRIN says these allegations have been exposed, and the entire world has discovered that what is falsely called Palestinian self-rule is not more than a cover for occupation, that nothing has changed in the occupied territories, and that peace is far from the Middle East.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: While continuing the struggle for a just and honorable solution in the region, Syria, which believes in just and comprehensive peace as a path and message, has no choice but to expose to everyone the falsehood of the Israeli allegations and continuous efforts to deceive the entire international community. The Golan is an inseparable part of Syria and there will never be peace without the return of the Golan to its people. All Israel's peace allegations are worthless unless they are accompanied by actual and full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Cabinet Discusses Elections, Other Issues

JN3008142394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in which it reviewed the work of the Services Committee. The council also discussed the results of the elections of the Peoples Assembly for the sixth legislative term and the atmosphere of the elections. The council stressed that the elections were conducted with complete freedom and fairness and strengthened the magnificent national unity established by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad since the beginning of the corrective movement. The elections have once again shown the deep feelings of loyalty and love for the country's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, and the people's support for his historic leadership in realizing the national and pan-Arab goals and aspirations of our people and the Arab nation.

The council was also briefed by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, on the positive results of the current showing of the Damascus International Fair, which has shown the importance of the economic development achieved under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the correctness of the course adopted by Syria to achieve comprehensive, balanced, and sustainable development through the size of participation and through the exhibited Syrian products. The Council of Ministers also examined issues listed on its agenda and the topics submitted to it and made suitable decisions concerning them.

Higher Investment Council Discusses New Projects

JN3008143994 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 1 Aug 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus—The Higher Investment Council held a meeting under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1900 yesterday. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; minister members of the council; the governors of Aleppo and the City of Damascus; and several directors and advisers.

The council discussed the projects proposed for inclusion under the provisions of Investment Law No. 10 [of 1991] with the view to adding new productive capabilities in order to meet local consumption needs and export

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requirements in the fields of agriculture, industry, and collective passenger and freight transport.

The prime minister reaffirmed the need to provide everything necessary to help ensure greater investment prospects for resident and expatriate national capital as well as Arab and foreign capital in order to improve the investment environment, bolster the national economy, and meet growing needs.

The council reviewed applications to amend already approved projects with the view to increasing their productive capacities and develop and diversify their production and operational resources.

The council also discussed the letters that have been submitted on issues related to the progress of work of certain projects with the view to overcoming present obstacles or those which might arise and to expedite work in projects which are being implemented.

The council agreed during this meeting on the need to establish new industrial projects outside agricultural areas in implementation of existing laws and regulations and in order to achieve economic and social feasibility.

The council studied the items on its agenda and the topics that have been submitted to it and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Poor Quality Wheat Crops Attributed to Mixed Seeds

JN3008154594 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 2

["Editor's Window" column by Sa'id Matar: "Grain Seeds and Multiplicity of Bananas"]

[Text] Despite an abundant grain season this year, especially wheat, we still neglect the question of quality, improvement of production, and increase of yield by area unit.

Barley, mixed with rye, has led to a drop in quality, a drop in the price for producers, and a drop in specifications, especially since there are contracts for export.

Wheat is also a mixture of soft and hard types. It is very rare to find a field producing a crop free of this mixture, or of wheat that is not mixed with oats. This is not just idle talk, but a tangible reality confirmed by the produce delivered to the grain marketing centers. Most of the delivered quantities are of third or second grade quality. As for first grade wheat, it is rare and does not exceed 10 percent of the produce being sold to the Grain Establishment.

Official quarters attribute the matter to the neglect of the peasant, who mixes seeds during cultivation. They say the peasant increases the quantity of seeds supplied to him per area unit by 30 percent and that it is this increase that causes the mixture.

We say the peasant is not simple and naive, but has become an expert at least in the cultivation of grain and cotton. He cannot possibly neglect this question, since he seeks a greater yield and quality in order to obtain a higher price. The producers, peasant organizations, and agricultural circles are unanimous that the mixture exists in the seeds distributed by the Seed Multiplicity Establishment, which is the only quarter dealing with the multiplicity and distribution of seeds. The peasant wants to obtain the establishment's seeds since they are sterilized, and since this is the only way also to obtain loans from the Cooperative Agricultural Bank. The only exception are the big farmers who follow very strict procedures by sieving and sterilizing the quantity of seeds they need from the produce of the previous seasons from their own fields. These seeds are purer in quality and type.

For instance, this year the Grain Establishment declined to purchase seeds from several seed multiplicity fields due to poor quality and mixed seeds. This is a sound and scientific procedure to follow in order to insist on good quality seeds.

However, last year the Grain Establishment purchased quantities of hard wheat from the Seed Multiplicity Establishment's stockpiles and sold them directly to the peasants at the prices of improved seeds without sieving or sterilizing them.

It seems that the Seed Multiplicity Establishment, which has managed for several years to increase reliable and improved types of seeds, is not able to meet the needs of the fields that specialize in grain cultivation and to maintain the purity of these types from mixtures and oats. This is also why the establishment still imports sugar-beet seeds, for millions of dollars, instead of augmenting them locally, despite the financial, scientific, and manpower resources that have been provided for this purpose. So, we are still at the beginning of the road.

The fact is, the Ministry of Agriculture, which controls the Seed Multiplicity Establishment, wants to devote its laboratories and scientific and financial resources to banana and palm seedlings at the expense of strategic crops. We are not against banana experiments, but such experiments could be undertaken by the Citrus Bureau, which has been successful in improving cotton seeds, and therefore raising the crops quality and yield.

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Afghanistan

Loya Jerga Committee Elects Chairmen

LD3008195294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The members of the committee for the formation of the Loya Jerga [komisiyon-e tashkil-e loya jerga], the grand assembly of Afghanistan, in their session on Monday [29 August] selected Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], and 'Abdorrasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], as their chairman and vice chairman respectively.

This committee has been meeting in Kabul during the past week implementing the decisions of its Herat session on forming the grand assembly to determine the future Government of Afghanistan,.

Missiles Kill 15 in Kabul; Schools Reopen

LD2708163294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] A number of schools began lessons today in Kabul. BIA reports: Although Kabul was the target of random missile attacks by the militias again today, the Ministry of Training and Eduction reports that the doors of the 23 schools in Kabul were opened today for girls and boys.

Analysts consider the reopening of schools in Kabul as a very important step, as thousands of children and youngsters are entitled to an education and will have a chance to resume their education. Many people believe that after the recapture of Bela Hesar and Tapa-e Maranjan by the Islamic army, the situation is improving in the city, and the officials of the Ministry of Training and Education are able to reopen the schools.

A source in the Kabul garrison put the number of missiles fired on Kabul today at 110 missiles, which martyred 15 people, injured dozens others, and destroyed 15 houses. According to Kabul garrison's command, the missiles were fired from the south and southwest.

A BIA correspondent reports that the observers believe there are two reasons for the intensification of missiles attacks on Kabul. The first is that the missiles are fired to disrupt public order and security, prevent the reopening of public centers and schools, and undermine the work of the commission on the formation of Loya Jerga. The second is that the intensification of missiles attacks in the last two days on Kabul reflects the poor situation of Dostam's militias in the nothern part of Afghanistan. Therefore, they intend to reduce the intensity of the attacks of the Islamic army in the north.

Golboddin Militias Reportedly Clash in Bagrami

LD2808182194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Clashes took place between two commanders of Golboddin's militias in Bagrami region last Friday.

Reports reached Bakhtar Information Agency indicate that Mirwais and Hamiddulah—son of Mawlawi Terakhel—two commanders of Golboddin's militias, resorted to a heavy clashes with each other last Friday. In the course of this clash, which lasted an hour, one person was killed and six others were injured.

The main reason behind this clash is not clear yet, but in the past Golboddin's men were used to clash with each others over the distribution of stolen goods.

From the other hand, Golboddin's militias targeted the residential areas in the western part of Kabul city at around 2140 last night with missile attack.

Golboddin's militias, assuming that the responsibilities for their missile attacks on western part of Kabul will be laid on the shoulder of forces of the Islamic Army and thereby encourage the Mojahedin from Hezb-e Wahadat-e Eslami to get involved in fighting and clashes with the forces of the Islamic Army, resorted to such a crime.

The eye witnesses described the situation in western Kabul as normal today and the roads are open for the traffic in the area.

Five Killed, 4 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attacks

LD3008165794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Today it has once again been reported that 12 rockets landed in the residential areas of Kabul. The Kabul garrison command announced in this regard: Last night and this morning 12 rockets were fired by the Golboddin-Dostam militia into the residential areas of Kabul City as a result of which five of our innocent compatriots were martyred and four others were injured. In addition to the loss of life, material damage was also inflicted by the rocket strikes today.

Bangladesh

Activists Protest; Opposition Boycotts Parliament

BK3008162994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 30 (AFP)—Thousands of demonstrators took the streets of Dhaka Tuesday as opposition parties resumed their boycott of parliament, which reopened following a summer recess.

Police stopped up to 7,000 Combined Action Council (CAC) activists armed with sticks from marching to the parliament house. The demonstrators, who planned to

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lay seige to the building, were blocked two kilometers (1.2 miles) away, witnesses said.

The activists threw stones and sticks at armed police, and later tried to break through a security barricade. They eventually left the streets of central Dhaka after offering mass prayers.

"We are protesting today as this parliament has failed to enact the anti-blasphemy law and the government has not yet punished infidels like Taslima Nasreen," said CAC leader Shafiul Alam Pradhan, who rode through the crowds in a truck.

Moslem fundamentalists have been pressing congress to enact a strict new law that would make some acts of blasphemy punishable by death. Radicals have called for Nasreen, a feminist writer they accuse of offending Islam, to be hanged under the act.

Activists in the CAC, an alliance of 13-Moslem fundamentalist and right-wing groups, shouted "yes" when asked if they were ready to shed blood for their cause.

Nasreen slipped out of Bangladesh after fundamentalists put a price on her head and is now in Sweden.

Witnesses said several thousand supporters of ex-president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's opposition Jatiya Party and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami also held demonstrations in Dhaka.

The two groups called for a constitutional amendment that would provide for new elections under a non-partisan interim government.

They claim that fair polls are impossible under Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government, which has rejected the demand for an early vote.

Meanwhile, the parliament resumed its session amid an opposition boycott over calls for new elections after informal talks failed to resolve the conflict.

The main opposition Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, again rejected returning to the house without government concessions.

Elections are not scheduled until early 1996.

India

'Massive' Demonstrations Staged Near U.S. Embassy

BK3108062694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The activists of the All India Students Action Committee held a massive demonstration near the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi today. They were demanding that Pakistan should be declared a terrorist state for aiding and abetting terrorism across its borders. The police prevented the demonstrators from reaching the embassy.

'Militarist' Pakistani Nuclear Program Viewed

BK3108072894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Commentary by Kanchan Gupta]

[Text] New Delhi has rightly described Islamabad's suggestion that both India and Pakistan should jointly renounce the nuclear weapons program as a bid to avoid the embarrassment caused by former Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif's administration [as heard] that his country has the nuclear bomb. The latest Indo-Pak diplomatic row, in which another senior Indian diplomat was expelled from Pakistan, is an attempt by Islamabad to deflect international attention from the political and diplomatic fallout caused by Mr. Sharif's statement. The row has further strained relations between the two countries.

If the world had any doubts about Pakistan's true intentions behind its nuclear programs, they were removed by two recent developments: first, the attempt to smuggle weapon-grade plutonium out of Russia to Pakistan via Germany; and second, Mr. Sharif's speech in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. There is little doubt that the plutonium which was seized by German authorities was destined for Pakistan, but Islamabad has made use of the fact that full details are yet to be publicized in order to escape being nailed by the Western governments. However, Mr. Sharif's disclosure has left no scope for any doubts whatsoever, for there is no reason to disbelieve a claim made by a former prime minister, especially when it is repeated the next day.

As if that were not enough, Mr. Sharif also held out a thinly veiled threat of Pakistan launching a nuclear attack on India to settle the Kashmir issue. Since he is not in power, Mr. Sharif has the freedom to say certain truths which the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, cannot for obvious reasons. It is this which prompted him to let the cat out of the bag and make nonsense of Islamabad's much trumpeted demand that South Asia be turned into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Despite Ms. Bhutto's denial of possessing a nuclear bomb, all these protestations to the contrary do not diminish the import of Mr. Sharif's disclosure. Had the truth been otherwise, Islamabad would not have failed to respond to New Delhi's six nonpapers, which were dispatched in January this year. Interestingly enough, one of the nonpapers suggests that both India and Pakistan should (?initiate) confidence-building measures in the nuclear field and the extension of the existing agreement on not attacking each other's nuclear installations to cover population centers and economic targets. New Delhi has also said that it is willing to negotiate an agreement that will prevent both the countries from being the first to use nuclear weapons against the other.

It is obvious that Islamabad cannot approach either of these suggestions with even a modicum of honesty.

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Hence its telling silence. For years now, the U.S. Administration has sought to turn a Nelson's eye [blind eye] toward Pakistan's militarist nuclear program and has even gone to the extent of ignoring evidence provided by India. With Mr. Sharif declaring to the world at large about the bomb in the basement and the attempt to acquire more bomb- grade plutonium, it cannot afford a similar posture. Rather than think along these lines, the U.S. Administration would do well to see through the Pakistani charade, as exemplified by Islamabad's hollow offer to jointly renounce nuclear weapons. Such a suggestion is untenable, not because India is interested in pursuing a militarist nuclear program but because it amounts to denying New Delhi what Islamabad already has. In other words, it is aimed at leaving a pacifist India susceptible to further Pakistani machinations. Worse, it will leave the entire region hostage to Islamabad's avarice and greed.

'Nefarious' Pakistani 'Terrorist' Role Alleged

BK3108094194 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 30 Aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Despite all the Evidence"]

[Text] Nawaz Sharif's statement was bound to cause commotion among the leaders of the ruling party in Pakistan. Using as a pretext legal complexities and giving it the benefit of doubt, the U.S. Administration has dropped the idea of declaring Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism. When Bill Clinton came to power, the U.S. secretary of state claimed before a Senate committee that on the advice of the United States, Pakistan had ceased supporting terrorist groups active in Kashmir and Punjab. According to other spokespersons of the State Department, it could not be legally proven that Pakistan officially supported the terrorists. However, afterward a U.S. newspaper gave a detailed account to prove that Pakistan imparted regular training to terrorists in subversive activities under the supervision of its intelligence agency, the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence]. Still, U.S. Ambassador to India Wisner maintained before a group of journalists that there were many legal problems in declaring Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism. According to him, incontrovertible evidence could not be found to hold Pakistan guilty on this account. Similar procrastination was exhibited by the United States regarding Pakistan's nuclear bomb, whereas the U.S. intelligence agency informed the U.S. Administration much earlier about Pakistan's making the bomb. Some high-ranking Pakistani officials themselves claimed that the country possessed the bomb. It was because of such claims that the U.S. Government under the Pressler Amendment stopped all military and economic aid to Pakistan. Despite this, the Clinton administration amended the Pressler law and expressed a willingness to provide F-16 bombers to Pakistan.

But the preceding month's events have now put the U.S. Administration in such a precarious position regarding the aforementioned two cases that its legal pretexts have lost credibility. The recent arrest of Yakub Memon, and later of other family members, provided solid and incontrovertible evidence of Pakistan's complicity in the Bombay bomb blasts. Pakistan was not only involved in hatching the devastating conspiracy in which hundreds of innocent people lost their lives, but it also fully tried to provide a safe hideout for the culprits. Having been involved in such a heinous crime and being in connivance with the criminals, Pakistan's claim looks hollow that it is not involved in the Bombay bomb blasts. After the confessional declaration by Nawaz Sharif, many U.S. experts have been forced to admit that Pakistan has nuclear weapons. The plutonium smuggling in Berlin also makes the case of Pakistan's having the bomb graver still. After the sharp reaction of the Indian Government, Pakistan is now very apprehensive that on Indian insistence the U.S. and other Western countries would really declare it to be a terrorist state. The Indian Foreign Affairs Ministry has declared its intention to step up its campaign against Pakistan in Western capitals. It is because of this that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has warned all of her ambassadors to prepare to offer adequate defense against India's anti-Pakistan campaign. Declaring Nawaz Sharif's statement as wrong and baseless, Pakistan says it is prepared to accept a ban on nuclear armaments along with India provided its claim to Kashmir is reconsidered. It is quite clear that Pakistan wants to sidetrack the charges leveled against it by raising the Kashmir issue. Hence it is imperative for India now to fully expose Pakistan's nefarious role in unleashing terrorism in India and her deceitful policy regarding the nuclear bomb to quickly garner favorable world opinion.

Industry Reaction to Pharmaceutical Policy Analyzed

BK3108005294 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 27 Aug 94 p 3

["News Anlaysis"]

[Text] Bombay—Better late than never, seems to be the general mood in the drug industry on the green light given by the prime minister for the new drug policy.

Most industry majors withhold comment on the issue and would rather wait for the policy to get a final nod from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and till such time as the details are announced. However, they do agree that if the Drug Price Control Order [DPCO] takes as long to come as it did last time when the policy was announced in 1986 (when the DPCO formulated in 1987), the purpose of a new policy would be defeated.

The Centre's proposed cut-off figure of Rs [rupees] 4 crore for bulk drug turnover for price control along with the competition criteria (of five bulk drug manufacturers and 10 formulators) is being viewed with caution for the simple reason that it is yet unclear which of the criteria will supercede the other.

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According to industry sources, a drug being made by five bulk manufacturers and 10 formulators will, in most cases, have a turnover of over Rs 4 crore.

Ranitidine, the anti-ulcer drug, for instance, has about 30 formulators in the market.

As per the tentative list which has been worked out by the Centre, out of the drugs under price-control (DPCO 1987), 62 drugs have a turnover of over Rs 4 crore, 19 have a 'monopoly' in the market (having a turnover of over Rs 1 crore and with more than 20 per cent market share).

To this total of 81 drugs, the Centre has applied the competition criterion, exempting eight bulk drugs from price control in the process. Effectively, therefore, the number of drugs which will continue to remain under price control is put at 73.

Although it is believed that the cut-off period for determining the turnover will be 1990, it is yet to be specified. Clarifications regarding whether imports and exports of bulk drugs will be considered to determine industry turnover for the drug are also awaited.

The industry, of course, is happy that at least the turnover criterion has improved from a measly Rs 50 lakh now to Rs 4 crore. But as Mr. Ananth Thakore, president, Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA), puts it, "while the policy is two step forwards, it is also a step backward,". The single list with a 100 per cent mark-up is welcome but the span of control is still very high, he said.

The turnover criterion, in fact, is being opposed by all in the industry. Mr. H. Dhanrajgir, ex president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), has been advocating abandoning both the proposed criteria.

His feels that monopoly exists only in few small niche products.

"Competition is fierce in the market, with several formulations of the same drug as well as several alternative therapeutic segments with multiple drugs", he said.

The final list, with the names of drugs to be retained under price control, will continue to be the most coveted thing for the industry in the days to come. As an ex president of an industry association puts it, "the policy is welcome, but the actual impact can be gauged only after the final list is made available."

The two regulatory bodies proposed to be set up—the National Drug Authority (NDA) and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPA) are new additions in this policy.

The prime minister is said to have agreed to introduce a bill in Parliament to set up the NDA which will monitor quality a aspects and strengthen the monitoring system. This implies that changes will have to be made in the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act to vest sufficient powers with the NDA.

As of now, the Drug Technical Advisory Board and the Drug Consultative Committee, two statutory bodies, are empowered to recommend changes to the Act. It is not clear if these two will be merged into the NDA and what the status of the office of the Drug Controller of India would be.

Industry observers point out that the NDA, as is being proposed now, had been recommended by the Haathi Committee year go. It had recommended that representatives of all the ministries directly or indirectly involved with this industry be brought under a single body for effective administration.

The suggestion, then rejected as being unfeasible, has now found favour. Apprehensions are being raised over the NPA's independence. It is believed that the ministry will continue to have veto powers on the NPA's decisions.

Iran

Velayati Meets With Georgian Deputy Prime Minister

LD3008140294 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday held talks on Tehran-Tbilisi relations and issues of mutual interest.

Referring to bilateral ties and holding of the first session of joint Tehran-Tbilisi economic commission, Kervalishvili called for joint cooperation in car manufacturing and transportation of commodities to Europe.

He said that natural gas is a major source of energy and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist Georgia in carrying out gas supply projects.

Kervalishvili also briefed Velayati on situation in Abkhazia and economic situation in Georgia.

Velayati referred to traditional Tehran-Tbilisi relations and said despite complexity of situation in Caucasus, Tehran was determined to expand its relations with Georgia.

He added that the two countries could cooperate with each other at regional and international levels and work to expand bilateral relations in various fields.

Velayati on Opposition to Peace Process

MM3008130094 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 28 Aug 94 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Juan Carlos Gumucio in Tehran; date not given—first four paragraphs are EL PAIS introduction]

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[Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, seems not at all surprised by the fact that his country has again been pointed out by the United States and Israel as the main promoter of international terrorism.

Nor is there passion when he rejects that accusation. Iran, he says, is well aware why strong pressures are again being brought to bear on Iran, but despite its enemies' efforts, he adds, nobody will succeed in changing the Islamic revolutionary line.

According to Velayati, the "new campaign" against Iran seeks in vain to neutralize Tehran's opposition to the peace process in the Near East. The most recent instance of the fact that there is a propagandist conspiracy against the Iranian Government, he says, is the accusation that Iranian agents and diplomats were involved in the bloody attack on the Jewish Center in Buenos Aires at the end of July.

Following bitter accusations, diplomatic tensions, and threats of a rift, the Argentine attorney general has just confirmed what the Iranian authorities have said from the outset: There is no evidence of Iranian involvement in the attack. In this exclusive interview with EL PAIS in Tehran, Velayati condemns U.S. and Israeli machinations and explains why Iran opposes and will continue to oppose the peace process taking place between the Arab world and the Israeli state.

[Gumucio] The Argentine judicial authorities have admitted that there is not sufficient evidence to support the accusations against Iran. Were you expecting that turn of events?

[Velayati] We saw from the outset, immediately after the Israelis made those unfounded accusations, that it was all absurd. Less than an hour after the explosion, an Israeli minister said that Iran and Hizballah (Lebanese Party of God) were the culprits. It did not surprise us, because that is Israel's policy. The Israelis wish to pressure Iran and Hizballah because of this country's and that party's opposition to the so-called peace process.

[Gumucio] Why is Iran opposed to this process?

[Velayati] We believe that most Palestinians do not agree because they will not secure their rights through this process. The Israelis would like to pressure us, and so they will use all means to accuse Iran and Hizballah.

[Gumucio] What is your opinion of the theory that although there was no direct official involvement, it is possible that ordinary Iranian citizens were involved?

[Velayati] According to the information at our disposal, that possibility does not exist. Nor do we see any private interest. As far as the Iranian Government is concerned, we wish to have good relations with Latin America. We are opposed to terrorism. Iran is a victim of terrorism. We have been attacked by terrorist groups. Precisely because we have had that experience, it is natural that we are opposed to terrorism.

[Gumucio] And what evidence does Iran have that there is a plot against the Tehran government?

[Velayati] It is clear. It is clear. If there were no plot, how do you explain the fact that, minutes after the explosion, an Israeli minister accused us directly? If they had any document, any evidence of an Iranian plot or one by pro-Iranian elements, if they really knew what was going to happen, then why were precautions not taken? If they knew, as they say, that something was going to happen, why did they not warn people? How do they immediately find documents and evidence of an alleged conspiracy to commit an act on the other side of the world? That is what the Israelis said, likewise the Americans. However, nobody has found a single piece of evidence against Iran. That conduct leads us to assert that the United States and Israel are seeking any pretext to accuse Iran. They wish to pressure Iran. That is the Israelis' aim—to eliminate Iran for expressing its viewpoint on the so-called peace process.

[Gumucio] But that process, begun almost a year ago with the agreement between Yasir 'Arafat's PLO and Israel, is now irreversibly under way.

[Velayati] There are extremely important matters which find no response, matters which are ignored by the so-called peace process. There are 4 million Palestinian refugees. The issue of Jerusalem remains unresolved.

[Gumucio] 'Arafat was once welcome in Tehran. What is your opinion of him now?

[Velayati] Mr. 'Arafat (long pause) [EL PAIS note] has reached the end of the road, the end of his political career. He wanted once more to be a part of the political scene. He negotiated without gaining anything in return. Gaza is nothing. The Israelis had wanted for some time to rid themselves of Gaza; to be more precise, from 1967, when the Israelis offered Egypt the Strip, and Egypt did not accept it. Gaza, with its poverty and population density, has always been a problem.

[Gumucio] Is it true that 'Arafat has tried to approach Iran in order to ask it to exert its influence over the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and pacify the fiercest critics of his plan?

[Velayati] No. Nor would it be correct to intervene in this case. We do not wish to do so. We will not interfere in the Palestinians' affairs. How are we going to prevent people from throwing stones when the people are struggling against the occupation?

[Gumucio] How do you see 'Arafat's future?

[Velayati] The Palestinians are different from what they were 10 or 15 years ago. Today the PLO no longer represents the Palestinians. Everybody knows that Hamas has the greatest influence in the occupied territories. Outside them, the Palestinians can no longer undertake major actions. What happens within the territories is the greatest factor affecting the Palestinians'

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fate. Those fighting within the occupied territories do not follow the PLO. That is 'Arafat's situation. His future is not very clear.

[Gumucio] Jordan has joined in the peace process. Do you not believe that Syria could follow its example?

[Velayati] The signing of the agreement between Jordan and Israel was a symbolic gesture. It was not difficult. The Israelis chose the time which they deemed opportune to take that step. That is our analysis. That agreement was signed in order to pressure Syria, in order to induce Syria to enter the game. It was like telling the Syrians: "If you do not agree with Israel's suggestions, you will become isolated." It was in order to pressure Syria psychologically.

[Gumucio] Do you believe that this could work?

[Velayati] Syria will not sign an agreement with Israel. That is our perception. The Syrians insist that Israel must first withdraw from southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights. They have said that they will not sign a peace treaty with Israel without a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. We do not believe that this problem with Syria and Lebanon will be resolved so easily.

[Gumucio] But if Syria enters into negotiations with Israel and eventually reaches an agreement with that state, what do you believe would be the impact of that new situation on the strategic relations between Tehran and Damascus?

[Velayati] Assuming that they sign an agreement, I believe that this will have no major impact on our foreign policy. What we can hazard is that this problem will not be resolved easily.

[Gumucio] Iraq and Israel are said to be establishing contacts...

[Velayati] It has been said that some Iraqis have been in touch with Israel. The Iraqi Government has denied this.

[Gumucio] And whom do you believe?

[Velayati] I do not know. As I told you—and this is confirmed by the absurd Israeli accusations against Iran in the case of Argentina—the Israeli Government is a government of lies. What I can assure you of is that our stance is very clear: Iran will not talk with Israel. It will never recognize Israel.

Deputy Majles Speaker Rowhani on India Trip

LD2708164494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Rowhani, who went to India at the head of a parliamentary delegation, returned to Tehran this afternoon. In an interview with our reporter on arrival, he described meeting India's high-ranking officials and ways of expanding bilateral relations between Tehran and Delhi as the most important issues discussed during his visit.

He added: Beneficial talks were held during the trip about the construction of a pipeline for the transfer of Iranian gas to India, the construction of a railway linking the two countries, and investment by India on Qeshm Island. The deputy speaker said that regional and international issues and the situation in Kashmir were among the other points discussed in his meetings with Indian officials. He added: India's high-ranking officials stressed that that country's Muslims enjoy the same rights as the followers of other religions. He also said that, with regard to the Babri Mosque, it was decided that the mosque would be rebuilt so that India's Muslims can use it again.

Rowhani said that he also met some Indian Muslim clergymen during his visit and that discussions were held and views exchanged with them about issues relating to Muslims living in India and the subcontinent.

As to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to India, which is due to take place in the near future, the deputy speaker said: Indian officials and Muslim clergymen believe that this visit will prove to be a turning point in the two countries' relations.

Offers Help on Kashmiri Crisis

LD2908203694 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Tripartite talks among Pakistani, Indian and Kashmiri people's representatives are the most "suitable" way to solve Kashmir issue and the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help bring about negotiations among the three parties, said Deputy Majlis Speaker Hasan Rohani here Monday.

Rohani, who made the remarks in an exclusive interview with IRNA here Monday, said that expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India is of high importance both for Tehran and New Delhi and would be to the interest of the entire region.

He saw stability in Iran and its "important" role in regional and international issues to be among factors which have impressed Indian Government and nation.

On Kashmiri crisis, Rohani said that in talks he had with Indian officials he had announced Iran's readiness to cooperate and help solve Kashmiri problem.

On the positions of India and Pakistan on Kashmir, Rohani said that Indian Government had over recent months adopted certain "positive" measures including lifting of Hazratbal's siege.

Asked what would be Tehran's stand if new pressures were exerted on Kashmiri people by Indian Government, Rohani replied that Iran is against any policy which would lead to denial of Muslims' rights anywhere in the world.

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Asked on the prospects of Iran's relations with Egypt, a country with a large Muslim population, Rohani answered that conditions in the future might be more "suitable" for establishment of relations with the North African Arab country. The Islamic Republic of Iran is keen on having ties with Muslim Egyptian people due to common historical and cultural backgrounds, said Rohani.

Official Discusses Reasons for Joining GATT

NC3008132194 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Aug 94 p 16

[Report from the Economic Desk]

[Excerpts] GATT membership will instill stability in Iran's economic policies, 'Ali Naqi Khamushi, the chief of Iran's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told our correspondent at the Majles.

Khamushi said: The lack of stability in law and policy-making harms the country's economy. So anything that fosters stability will help the economy. [passage omitted]

He added: Those countries that do not join GATT will face numerous problems in 1997 concerning economic transactions, imports, exports, and procurement of their needs from the countries that are GATT members.

He said: A study of GATT regulations indicates that by adhering to this agreement, many commercial and industrial regulations will be incorporated within a prescribed framework.

Regarding the effect of GATT membership on economic policy, Engineer Khamushi stated: In view of the general climate and political and economic expediencies it was decided that Iran should join GATT. A preliminary request was submitted. The government is awaiting the organization's views.

He continued: As a member of GATT, Iran's economy will be saved from paying discriminatory tariffs, which are levied on some of our products even though they are similar to those from other countries.

As for the effect of GATT membership on industry, Khamushi commented: Perhaps in the industrial sector the country will initially sustain losses in those departments in which production capacity gets extra support. But these losses will eventually lead to an increase in production capacity and the country's extricating itself from this artificial support that is the cause of stagnation and retardation in industry and production.

The Tehran deputy in the Islamic Majles elaborated on the impact of GATT membership on agriculture, saying: Our country imports a set quantity of essential and agricultural products. Since most countries pay subsidies, this will result in less expensive imports for us.

He added: If the subsidies are gradually removed from the producing countries the prices of imported agricultural goods will rise and indigenous production will strengthen, as in the case of red meat. When the subsidies are lifted from the producing country, livestock breeding in our country will yield more profitable returns and this in turn will boost domestic production.

He continued: Since the end price of some products in the country is cheaper than elsewhere, because of cheaper labor and other production factors, it will make it easier for us to enter and compete in the international market.

Group Argues Against Relations With Egypt

NC3108094094 Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Aug 94 p 8

[Statement by the Sazman-e Mojahedin-e Enqelab-e Eslami, the Organization of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution; place and date not given]

[Text] Recently the Egyptian foreign minister stated that "the time has come for a change in Iranian-Egyptian relations."

Undoubtedly these remarks could not have been made if the favorable grounds for them did not exist. The Iranian foreign minister's meeting with Egyptian officials during the recent session of the Non-Aligned Movement in Cairo, followed by rumors on the possible establishment of political relations between Iran and Egypt and the dissemination of these rumors by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, helped to pave the way for such remarks. Irrespective of whether Iran wishes to establish political relations with Egypt and since we speak from a principled stance that the Islamic Republic should pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence and normal relations with all countries except America, Britain, and Israel, under the current circumstances we do not consider the establishment of relations with Egypt to be in the interests of the revolution, the system, and the country for the following reasons:

1. The problems that caused the severing of relations with Egypt continue to exist. The Islamic Republic of Iran severed its relations with Egypt in 1979 when the Egyptian president accepted the Camp David agreement. In tandem with Iran, almost all Islamic countries severed their relations with Egypt. Not only has this important issue not been resolved, but by undertaking the leadership of the compromise process between the Arabs and Israel, the Egyptian regime has further completed its mission in this field, with the Americans and the Zionists acting as middlemen.

2. The greatest threat against the Egyptian regime emanates from Islamic movements and Muslim and revolutionary forces. People with popular sentiments who regard the Islamic Republic of Iran as a Muslim and revolutionary government expect it to have a suitable stance on the issue. The Egyptian regime is pitilessly crushing these very movements and forces. Naturally the

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Egyptian regime believes that with the establishment of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, all the traces of spiritual backing for these forces will be removed. Since the Egyptian regime has repeatedly accused Iran of extending support to the Islamists in Egypt, the establishment of relations between Iran and Egypt will definitely be to the detriment of these movements and forces and will also enrage the Muslim people of Egypt.

3. During recent years Egypt has been suffering from extremely unfavorable economic and social conditions. All these stem from bad management by the regime, something that has intensified the people's dissatisfaction. Therefore, under the current situation the Egyptian regime's lack of popular backing is so great that not only revolutionaries inside Egypt but politicians in pro-Egyptian countries consider it to be shaky. Therefore, establishing political relations with a shaky and weak regime is illogical and not in our interests.

4. The Egyptian regime has turned Egypt into America's strongest base in North Africa and the Middle East. This is why Egypt ranks second after Israel on the list of countries receiving American assistance. Therefore, how can Islamic Iran—which is known as an anti-imperialist country and a staunch opponent of America—establish political relations with such a country, and that in addition to all the reasons already mentioned?

5. If relations with Egypt could play a determining role on the stability and security of the system and of the country, the reasons already mentioned could have been temporarily ignored and relations established for the sake of preserving the Islamic Republic. But under the current conditions, the establishment of relations with Egypt gives rise to the following questions and ambiguities:

A. If the Islamic Republic of Iran is to show flexibility toward a regime that leads the pro-Camp David inclinations in the Arab world and the world of Islam, why should this flexibility not be shown toward the PLO when the PLO's dependence on America is far less than Egypt's? Moreover, these relations may have a positive effect on the PLO. We can see how the Islamic Republic's policy on the PLO, especially after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord, has been extremely harsh and relations between the two are deteriorating more and more each day. Can this policy of double standards be justified?

B. If relations must be established with regimes that are at war with Islamists, why should these relations not be established with Algeria, which is far less dependent on America than the Egyptian regime? Is this not a sign of double standards in our foreign policy?

C. If to preserve domestic security the establishment of relations with Egypt is considered, why should the same not be done with Iraq, which has 2,000 km of common borders with our country and is the refuge of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]? With the establishment of suitable relations with Iraq, the anti-American potential in the region will intensify because of Iraq's anti-American stances. These good relations also can lead to the limitation of the activities of the monafeqin and counterrevolution on the borders. As a result, will national security not be further ensured? The only difference between the two governments [of Egypt and Iraq] is the former's closeness to America.

6. Because of Egypt's unfavorable economic situation, political relations with it will not only not benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran, but because of the Egyptian regime's inclinations the prestige of the revolution and the system will be politically harmed and the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be marred in the eyes of the people and revolutionaries of the region.

Regrettably, the Foreign Ministry has not displayed sagacity when assessing the need for proximity or distance from other countries on the basis of national interests. Thus, it sometimes acts so clumsily that the Islamic Republic's intention to establish relations with countries like Egypt is regarded as an intention to get close to America. This is considered to be the weakest point in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy.

[Signed] The Organization of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution.

Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address Cabinet

NC3108074394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] On the last day of Government Week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the vice presidents, and members of the Cabinet were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution last night. The esteemed leader commemorated martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar and said their acts and devotion made them outstanding examples of an Islamic government.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i thanked the president and the members of the Cabinet for shouldering the heavy burden of the system's affairs and stated: The Iranian Government has clear characteristics of the noble government for which we prayed to God Almighty for many years. These characteristics should be intensified through efforts under the aegis of religious piety. The esteemed revolution leader stated: Religious piety means statesmen should not deviate from the correct line but should observe religious criteria in running the country's affairs and act to God's satisfaction.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i told Cabinet members: Ensuring the people's life is a difficult task but yields a sweet fruit. In the holy Koran, God Almighty has listed the signs of piety and has shown how to tread this difficult path, stressing that success is definite on this path and that God will help his beings; we saw what God did to the Americans in the Tabas incident. And who

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would have believed that during the imposed war all these powers would have carried out a military attack against us and failed to take even one inch of our territory? All these are signs that God's promise is final.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: We all saw faith in God's promise in the deeds of the late imam, may his soul be sanctified, and we know that the main reason for the success of this divine man was that he observed the commandments. We too should use this as our guiding light today.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution stated: In the first Five-Year Plan the government offered valuable, major service in the various economic, industrial, educational, health, cultural, and political fields and frankly did more than it promised, something of which the people are not sufficiently aware.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i clarified: Iran never reached such political maturity during the past two decades and was always denigrated and sometimes mocked by bullies. Today no power can bully the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution stated: Today the government demonstrates the nation's power and we should not allow the power of the government, which demonstrates the country's national power, to be breached. We should consolidate this power by adopting calculated and decisive policies. The esteemed leader stated: We can improve ourselves and rapidly and seriously overcome our faults under the aegis of divine piety.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: High prices have created problems for specific strata. I do not believe this situation is unavoidable. Officials should strive to solve the problems faced by this strata.

Emphasizing the need to protect domestic producers, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution stated: The Europeans spread the idea that Iranians cannot manufacture quality products and some people wrongly believed this propaganda. Today the worker and the industrialist in the Islamic Republic of Iran consider work to be a blessing and manufacture goods on this basis. Many products now are better than foreign products. We should rid ourselves of wrong beliefs and this is something that calls for planning and programming.

Elsewhere in his remarks Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the significance of propaganda, saying: Today the major propaganda machinery, which is run by the Zionists, is using its propaganda against us. For example, Zionist radios and news agencies concoct several news items daily in a bid to create disillusion among the people, weaken them, obstruct relations between the government and the people, and impose these news items on the world. In exchange, we should strengthen our propaganda machinery, most notably the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, both in quality and quantity and make the truth be heard by the people.

The esteemed leader told Cabinet members: The culture of economizing should be cultivated and we should start with our own personal deeds and with state institutions. Economizing will have an outstanding impact on the government's economic growth and development.

Referring to the cultural roots of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: Government officials must work hard on cultural affairs, which should not be overshadowed by economic issues.

The esteemed leader emphasized the need to strive for the deprived strata, stating: Ensuring social justice was the main theme of our struggle. Thus the government should try harder to help people with lower incomes and, as well as implementing major plans, should also implement protective projects.

Before the remarks by the esteemed leader, President Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke in memory of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar, stating: The first Five-Year Plan has been completed and we consider it our duty to thank Your Eminence for your all-embracing support for the government. We believe Your Eminence's guidance and support have been the main assets behind this success and we consider your satisfaction with the government's activities in the first plan as a backbone for the new plan.

Declaring the government's readiness to begin the second Five-Year Plan, the president stated: In its first round of deliberations, the Majles has approved the second plan in a coordinated way. We hope the plan will be approved in the second round of deliberations with the same understanding.

The president stated: The government considers Your Eminence's guidance a gift and a source of encouragement.

Aqazadeh Warns Against 'Unreasonable' Terms

LD3008202694 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] London, Aug. 30, IRNA—Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, has warned foreign companies to relax their "unreasonable" terms and not to overcharge if they want a role in Iran's upstream oil sector. Costs submitted by foreign firms far exceed those of local contractors, the minister is quoted saying in an exclusive interview with PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly, begging the question why should Iran give project contracts to others.

Aqazadeh blamed companies "demanding certain things from us which we believe are unreasonable," exampling ownership of Iranian fields, exorbitant prices and excessive profits. The failure of foreign investors to compete is underlined by none being able to win participation in Iranian offshore projects since the policy to open invitations was extended three years ago.

The London-based weekly saw the minister's comments as a warning amid advanced talks on the development of

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north seas gas reserves being negotiated by Shell and of Sirri "E" and "A" oilfields being sought by Conoco and Total.

It also follows decisions by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to award awarding [as received] two other major contracts, the South Pars gas project and the reconstruction of Abuzar oilfields to local firms after the breakdown of talks with foreign companies. In doing so, NIOC is cutting the cost of South Pars to dlrs 900 million from over dlrs 2 bn and of Abuzar from dlrs 270 m to dlrs 130 m, PETROLEUM ARGUS said.

Elsewhere in his interview, Aqazadeh is quoted saying that Iran favors a rollover of OPEC's current ceiling into the first quarter of next year unless there are significant market changes. OPEC quotas, which have already been rolled over to the end of the year, he said, should only be changed if there was "real increased demand, adding there was still too much crude on the market despite all the various crises like Nigeria. [no closing quote as received]

Ministers Attend Services for Martyred Officials

LD3008125494 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—A special ceremony was held by the Cabinet Ministers at Tehran's Ark Mosque on Tuesday in commemoration of the late President Mohammad Ali Rajaie and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar who were martyred August 30, 1980.

Speaking at the ceremony Deputy Majles Speaker Hassan Rowhani said that martyrdom of Rajaie, Bahonar and other government officials in the early years of the revolution demonstrated the utmost cruelty of the world arrogane and the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and their animosity against Islam and Iranian people.

The ceremony was attended by government officials, Majles deputies, military officials and people.

Rowhani further in his speech said that the world arrogance which could not tollerate valuable victories of the Islamic Republic utilized all its means to prevent consolidation of the divine system.

He termed acts of terrorism and planting bombs as dastardly measures employed by the enemies to remove high-ranking officials of Iran. However, vigilance and massive presence of people in various scenes foiled all plots of the enemies in the post-revolutionary era.

He continued that foiling of plots, hatched by MKO and its proponents to humiliate Islamic system, was a divine miracle that happened under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeini and vigilance of the Iranian nation.

Rowhani praised Rajaie and Bahonar for their noble characters and said the Iranians will always value their services.

Commentary Views Military Expenditure

LD3008120494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] In the name of God and greetings. Let me draw your attention now to today's political commentaries.

The managing director of the Defense Industries Organization [DIO] announced in an interview yesterday that over 41 percent of the organization's production has been devoted to non-military products. He said that 34 percent of the DIO's revenue last year [year ending 20 March 1994] was obtained from the sale of non-military products.

During the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the DIO devoted most of its resources to meeting defense and military requirements. However, since 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] and since the reduction in the armed forces' need for military equipment, it gradually turned to identifying the capacity for producing non-military equipment in the society. At this time, the production of household appliances was put on the list of the DIO's new products because of the people's requirements.

The organization has also begun to produce equipment needed by the Ministry of Roads and Transport, vehicles and urban installations and to the production of equipment for use in mining.

The change in the DIO's products from the military to the non-military indicates that Iran's arms policy has consistently been based on an assessment of defense requirements and, as military dangers decrease, the resources for the production of military equipment and products is re-channeled proportionately towards meeting society's general needs.

In the meantime, a comparison between Iran's military expenditure and arms purchases and those of other countries reveals that the size of military expenditure in relation to the gross national product in many countries, most of which have a smaller population and size than Iran, is on occasion seven times that of Iran's. In the United Nation's most recent human development report, the average amount of military expenditure in southern Asia was put at 3.5 percent of the gross national product, whereas Iran's military expenditure is only 2.1 percent of its gross domestic product. On the other hand, Iraq's military expenditure is 16 percent and Saudi Arabia's expenditure 14 percent of their gross national product. The level of military expenditure in Pakistan, Iran's eastern neighbor, reaches 6.5 percent of that country's gross national product.

Of course, it is obvious that any independent country has the right to lay the foundations for its own defense and to set the size of its military expenditure accordingly. Iran, too, which is the largest and most populous Persian Gulf littoral country and which has a special geopolitical position, will set about meeting its arms requirements in

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accordance with the strategy of strengthening its defense foundation. However, the major feature of Iran's efforts—apart from the low level of its military purchases—is its reliance on domestic resources and the country's own workforce.

Karkheh Dam Construction Work Detailed

LD3008114294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Ninety percent of the work to divert the water flowing to the proposed Karkheh dam site in Khuzestan Province is now complete. We invite you to listen to a report by our colleagues from the Central News Unit in Ahvaz:

This will be the biggest reservoir and earth dam in Iran, which is being built across the Karkheh River in order to harness the destructive flood waters of the river and to irrigate 220,000 hectares of low-lying land in the province. The dam will also generate 400 megawatts of electricity.

The earth dam will have a reservoir capacity of 5.6 billion cubic meters and a discharge capacity of 19,000 cubic metres [no time frame as heard]. The cost of building the dam is estimated to be 1.2 billion rials.

According to the executive director of the dam, the bridge carrying the access road to the dam has been completed. The bridge plays an effective role in speeding up the construction work of this great project. Over 80 percent of the work for constructing the access road has also been completed. He added that in constructing the dam's water diversion system, 1.5 million cubic metres of earth have so far been removed and 18,000 cubic metres of concrete poured at a cost of 40 billion rials.

He further added: The diversion system is capable of controlling flood waters, as well as discharging 3,700 cubic meters of water per second. Ninety percent of the diversion system is complete, which includes four concrete discharge outlets 930 metres-long. The volume of earth in the dam's wall is 27 million cubic meters, and the overflow of the dam is 1 million cubic meters. The project is expected to be completed by March 1998.

Pakistan

UN Secretary General To Visit on Kashmir Issue

BK3108112494 Karachi DAWN in English 31 Aug 94 p 18

[Report by Anjum Niaz]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30—Pakistan will convey its principled position on Kashmir and will reiterate its desire for a peaceful solution through the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Butrus-Ghali, who arrives here on September 6, on a three-day official visit, a Foreign Office spokesman said here on Tuesday [30 August].

"We hope Mr. Butrus-Ghali will be able to persuade India to accept his good offices to mediate between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir dispute," he told DAWN.

Butrus-Ghali, had once again, offered to Islamabad and New Delhi last month to resolve the 47-year-old Kashmir conflict between the two countries. While his offer was accepted by Pakistan, India maintained that since the Kashmir dispute was a bilateral issue, it should be resolved by Pakistan and India "without any interference from outside."

The spokesman said that Mr. Butrus-Ghali, who will be going to New Delhi at the end of his tour of Pakistan, will hold talks with President Farooq Ahmad Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali to discuss matters of regional concern.

"Pakistan will brief him on its contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations and its UN economic cooperation," said the spokesman, adding, "we have a broad-based agenda to cover with the UN Secretary-General during the three days he is going to be here."

Mr. Ghali will also be conferring with his special envoy Mehmud Mestiri, who has been in Pakistan for over a month meeting with various Afghan leaders in a bid to resolve the 8-month-old civil war in Afghanistan.

Before his departure for Lahore on September 8, the UN Secretary-General will address a Press conference in Islamabad. This is his second visit to Pakistan. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Maria Leia Butrus-Ghali and the Pakistan-born Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Discusses Partial Lift of Embargo

BK3108111494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 31 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga Wednesdaydd)territory and called for peace talks to end ethnic bloodletting.

Kumaratunga said she expected her "unconditional and unilateral" action to clear the way for a dialogue between the government and Tamil Tiger guerrillas to resolve the conflict which has claimed some 30,000 lives since 1972.

With immediate effect, the government was removing 28 items from a list of 42 banned from the areas under control of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Kumaratunga told reporters here.

Only items that could go directly into the manufacture of bombs and weapons will not be allowed to the northern

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Jaffna peninsula, but there will be no restriction on all other commodities, she said.

The transport of items, such as medicines, food, kerosene oil, power generators, bicycles and spare parts for rice mills, could be taken to the north. The government expects prices in Jaffna to fall sharply.

"We are doing all this to rebuild the trust and confidence between the government and the Tamil people of Jaffna," said Kumaratunga, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese ethnic community.

The Tigers had over the weekend agreed to a ceasefire following a peace offer by Kumaratunga, who took office just two weeks ago, and said they were awaiting a "goodwill gesture" from the Colombo government.

Kumaratunga said: "We have lifted the embargo unconditionally and unilaterally. We expect the other side to act with equal goodwill. We want to show (through the latest action) that our intentions are good."

Tamil Tigers have been leading a protracted battle to establish an independent homeland called Eelam in the island's northern and eastern regions and previous political efforts to resolve the conflict have ended in failure.

Asked about prospects of peace in Sri Lanka, the prime minister she said it was "far too soon" to say anything, but added that she expected LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran himself to respond to her peace initiatives.

She said the clandestine radio station, Voice of Tigers, had declared that they were willing to observe a ceasefire but Kumaratunga said she could agree to a truce only after consulting with field commanders.

Kumaratunga said she expected the cooperation of other Tamil militant groups which are supporting the government's military drive against the LTTE to cooperate with the lifting of the embargo.

She said Tamil armed groups should not impose any "taxes" on goods transported to the island's north and said such illegal levies had sent prices soaring on the Jaffna peninsula.

She was also meeting with field commanders from the embattled regions Thursday to assess the ground situation and expected to announce concessions to front line troops to improve their living conditions.

Kumaratunga became Sri Lanka's new prime minister after her People's Alliance [PA] defeated the former government of President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, which had ruled the country for 17 years.

Political analysts have noted that Kumaratunga was more sympathetic to minority demands for greater autonomy and have described her election as a "window of opportunity" to end the country's dragging separatist war.

At least two minority Tamil political parties are providing her PA government with crucial support in parliament.

Reaction Mixed

BK3108141494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Colombo, Aug 31 (AFP)—Tamil parties Wednesday [31 August] welcomed Sri Lanka's decision to partially lift an economic embargo on the war-torn north but the military and the opposition were more cautious.

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga announced Wednesday that the government was removing 28 goods from a list of 42 banned from northern areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Tamil United Liberation Front said the decision by the new People's Alliance (PA) government headed by Kumaratunga was a step in the right direction and could be a catalyst for starting peace talks.

"This will be a big relief to the people of (northern) Jaffna. They are really suffering. This will help create a favourable climate for starting negotiations to end this war," said the front's vice-president V. Anandasangaree.

"We are doing all this to rebuild the trust and confidence between the government and the Tamil people of Jaffna," said Kumaratunga, who took office 11 days ago after her PA won the recent parliamentary elections.

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), which has been fighting alongside government troops in certain areas of the north, also welcomed the move.

"It will alleviate the sufferings of the people there. The prime minister will create a good impression by doing this. She is showing she is sincere in her efforts to bring peace," a spokesman said.

Kumaratunga said she took the decision after talks Tuesday with the armed forces chiefs.

But sections of the military said the move would be a shot in the arm for the Tigers politically and demoralise troops serving in the war-zone.

"We only hope that this will not demoralise our troops. The Tigers can now breath easier in Jaffna," said one defence official.

The LTTE has projected itself as the saviour of Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils but the embargo had caused many Tamils to question the LTTE's ability to lessen the economic hardship they faced.

However, former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe said that lifting the ban would be meaningless because pro-government armed groups would continue to impose "taxes" on goods that were being transported to the north.

Wickremesinghe, from the main opposition United National Party, also cautioned against a ceasefire demanded by the Tigers to open peace talks.

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